

2 February 2021

TO: Faculty Senate

FROM: Paul Loikith, Chair, Graduate Council

RE: Graduate Admissions Transcript Policy Change

The following proposal has been approved by the Graduate Council and is recommended for approval by the Faculty Senate.

Transcript Policy Change Goals:

- To implement more equitable and anti-racist policy and practice (also looking at changes in standardized test exams such as GRE/GMAT) and transcript policies.
- To bring the graduate admissions policy and practices more in line with the minimum admissions requirements.
- To remove admissions and matriculation barriers.
- To create efficiency in procedures.

The Graduate School's existing [transcript policy](#) requires official transcripts of matriculated students from every community college, college or university ever attended to be submitted before registering for the second term of classes. These transcripts are used to calculate an overall total cumulative undergraduate GPA (or, if 9 or more letter graded graduate credits have been completed, a graduate GPA) for graduate admission.

The proposed change would **update the policy** requiring official transcripts be submitted to PSU from **only the institutions where (a) bachelor's degree(s) was(were) awarded and where graduate credits were completed.**

The Graduate School's **GPA calculation policy** would also be updated to no longer calculate a total undergraduate cumulative GPA, and instead base eligibility on the institutional GPA from the degree granting institution where the bachelor's degree was completed (or graduate GPA if 9 or more letter graded credits have been completed).

- The proposed changes have been verified with PSU's Accreditation and Compliance Coordinator for NWCCU, the Registrar's Office and ISSS.
- This policy change is also in line with changes being made by the University's Financial Aid office regarding Satisfactory Academic Progress policies and GPA calculation.
- Vetted by legal counsel, Krista Sterns, to ensure the timing of implementation is in accordance with best practices. A good example of timing to implement could be the catalogue policy which grandfathers existing students but allows them to choose which catalogue year they wish to claim for their degree.

EXISTING TRANSCRIPT POLICY

UNIVERSITY REQUIREMENTS

To be admitted to PSU for a graduate certificate, masters or doctoral program, applicants must satisfy University requirements and be accepted by the academic department in which the graduate study will occur. Admission eligibility is based on receipt of a baccalaureate degree equivalent to a United States four-year bachelor's degree from a college or university recognized as an institution of higher education by the Ministry of Education in the relevant

country or be regionally accredited within the U.S. prior to matriculating into a graduate program.

Admitted students must meet the university's minimum English language proficiency requirements in order to enroll in graduate courses.

The Graduate School reserves the right to request official or updated transcripts at any time.

REGULAR ADMISSION

To be considered for regular admission, applicants must have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or the equivalent (on the U.S. 4.0 scale). Applicants who have earned 9 or more letter-graded graduate credits must have a minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 or the equivalent; this graduate GPA supersedes the undergraduate GPA.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

Applicants who have a cumulative undergraduate GPA between 2.5 and 2.74 or the equivalent are eligible for University Conditional status. After completing 9 letter-graded graduate credits at PSU with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, students with University Conditional status will automatically be given Regular status.

PROPOSED CHANGES

Wording to be deleted is ~~struck through~~. Wording to be added is underlined.

REGULAR ADMISSION

To be considered for regular admission, applicants must have a minimum ~~cumulative~~ undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or the equivalent (on the U.S. 4.0 scale) from the degree granting institution(s). Applicants who have earned 9 or more letter-graded graduate credits must have a minimum graduate GPA of 3.0 or the equivalent; this graduate GPA supersedes the undergraduate GPA.

CONDITIONAL ADMISSION

Applicants who have a cumulative undergraduate GPA between 2.5 and 2.74 or the equivalent from the degree-granting institution(s) are eligible for University Conditional status. After completing 9 letter-graded graduate credits at PSU with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, students with University Conditional status will automatically be given Regular status.