

**BOARD OF SUPERVISORS FOR THE  
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA SYSTEM**

**ACADEMIC AND STUDENT AFFAIRS COMMITTEE**

**August 24, 2023**

**Item F.7.**     **University of Louisiana System’s** request to revise *Board Rule, Chapter II. Students, Section IX. Admission to Graduate Study.*

**EXECUTIVE SUMMARY**

The UL System Graduate Deans collectively propose several changes to *Board Rule, Chapter II. Students, Section IX. Admission to Graduate Study* to reflect a holistic admissions approach and prioritization of accessibility and access to higher education followed by the institutions. These changes, which provide for more flexibility in admission standards, better reflect the experiences of System undergraduate students who are more likely to attend multiple institutions and transfer significant numbers of hours through initiatives such as Compete LA.

Proposed changes to A. Regular Admission, paragraph 2. (See attached file).

- **Change from** hold a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution.
- **Change to** hold a baccalaureate degree from a college or university accredited and recognized at the institutional level by the USDOE.

Justification:

The USDOE has determined that colleges and universities are no longer distinguished by regional accreditation. Accordingly, a policy adjustment is warranted.

Proposed changes to A. Regular Admission, paragraph 3. (See attached file).

- **Change from** requiring a baccalaureate degree with a minimum overall GPA of 2.50 on a 4.0 scale on all undergraduate coursework attempted or 2.75 on all upper division coursework attempted.
- **Change to** allowing multiple paths for an applicant to satisfy the minimum required overall GPA. Specifically, one of the following: a) requiring a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the baccalaureate degree; b) a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework; or c) a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on at least 9 graduate credit hours. An exception to regular admission GPA may be granted if approved by the appropriate administrative unit of the institution.

Justification:

Following holistic admissions best practices, GPA is but one factor in assessing potential for success in graduate education. Another factor to consider is that graduate applicants are adult learners often returning many years after earning the baccalaureate degree and often with significant relevant professional experience that warrants an institution's ability to consider for unconditional admission in exceptional cases.

Proposed changes to B. Conditional Admission (See attached file).

- **Change from** requiring a baccalaureate degree with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate coursework attempted or 2.5 on all upper division coursework attempted.
- **Change to** allowing multiple paths for an applicant to satisfy the minimum required overall GPA. Specifically, one of the following: a) requiring a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale for the baccalaureate degree; or b) a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 on the last 60 hours of undergraduate coursework.

Justification:

This proposed revision would align the conditional admission GPA requirements with the regular admission changes proposed above.

Proposed addition to G. Ineligibility (See attached file).

Justification:

The proposed addition would ensure that (1) institutions are required to secure official transcripts from all colleges and universities where graduate coursework has been attempted and (2) applicants inadmissible or ineligible to continue—for academic or disciplinary reasons—at any institution would be admissible at one of the institutions only through formal appeal.

## Proposed revision to Board Rule

**CHAPTER II**  
**SECTION IX. ADMISSION TO GRADUATE STUDY**

A. Regular Admission. To be eligible for regular admission, applicants must meet the following criteria:

1. Satisfy general admission requirements of the institution. These may include submitting a formal application, documents such as undergraduate and graduate transcripts, official reports on nationally recognized aptitude tests, and evaluations by recognized professionals in their field of interest, thereby demonstrating their potential for graduate study. When possible, interviews with the applicants should also be arranged.
2. Hold baccalaureate degrees from a college or university accredited at the institutional level by an accreditor recognized by the USDOE ~~regionally accredited institutions~~ except for special approved programs which require only a specific set of pre-requisite courses and/or award the baccalaureate and master's degrees simultaneously. Credentials of international students will be evaluated individually by the institution. (Revised June 23, 2022)
3. Have earned a baccalaureate degree with a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 on a 4.0 scale ~~on all undergraduate work attempted~~ or a minimum overall GPA of 2.75 on a 4.0 scale on the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work ~~all upper division course work attempted~~ or a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on at least nine hours of graduate credit. An exception to regular admission GPA may be granted if approved by the appropriate administrative unit of the institution.

B. Conditional Admission. Applicants not qualified for regular admission may be granted conditional admission if they have earned a baccalaureate degree with a minimum overall GPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale ~~on all undergraduate work attempted~~ or a minimum overall GPA of 2.5 on all upper division the last 60 hours of undergraduate course work ~~attempted~~.

1. Conditional status will be changed to regular status when a student earns a minimum of 12 semester hours of graduate credit (nine hours under the quarter calendar) with at least a 3.0 average and no grade lower than "C."
2. At the time a student completes 12 semester hours of graduate credit, ~~if he~~ and is not eligible for regular status, the student will be suspended from the degree program for a period of time determined by the institution. Readmittance shall be in accordance with the institution's established policy.

C. Non-Degree, Transient, or Visitor Admission. Each institution shall make provisions for non-matriculating students. Not more than 12 semester hours of graduate credit earned while in a non-matriculating status may be applied to a graduate degree.

D. Provisional Admission. Graduate students may be admitted on a provisional basis while in the process of obtaining required credentials. Students, who are admitted provisionally and subsequently are ineligible for admission or do not meet all requirements for admission within a reasonable time specified by the institution, shall have their registration canceled without refund of fees.

E. Graduating Seniors – Concurrent Baccalaureate and Master's Program Enrollment. Graduating seniors who have a minimum cumulative undergraduate GPA of 3.2 on all undergraduate work attempted may be allowed to register for graduate credit if they meet the following criteria:

1. Their admission into the program is approved by the graduate director/coordinator, their academic dean, and graduate dean.
2. The students lack no more than 30 semester hours to complete baccalaureate degree requirements.

3. The students may earn no more than 12 graduate credit hours while completing baccalaureate requirements.
4. Courses taken for graduate credit cannot be used to satisfy undergraduate requirements. The only exception to this rule is when a student enrolls in a combined curriculum program in which the faculty has approved graduate credit courses fulfilling undergraduate degree requirements. (Revised October 24, 2019)
5. Such students retain their undergraduate status until they are awarded the baccalaureate degree. Provisions of this section are not applicable to special programs that award the baccalaureate and master's degrees simultaneously.
6. While in the concurrent program, students shall maintain a minimum cumulative graduate GPA of 3.0.

F. Entrance Examinations. Admission requirements shall include evidence of potential for graduate study such as interviews, undergraduate record, record of prior experience in research, letters of recommendation, and work experience in relevant area. Scores from one or more nationally recognized aptitude measures may also be utilized.

G. Ineligibility. [An applicant ineligible to register in any previously attended institution as a graduate student is not admissible for graduate study without formal appeal to the appropriate administrative unit of the admitting institution.](#)