Summary of Graduate Admission Requirements

Minimum Qualifications

OSU requires that graduate applicants have a four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, with a combined GPA of 3.00 on the last 90-quarter (60 semester) credit hours of graded undergraduate work toward the first baccalaureate degree plus all work completed thereafter;

OR

A four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, and a 45 quarter-credit-hour graduate degree from an accredited university.

Once an Advanced Notice of Rejection (ANR) is returned from an academic department indicating that the department wants to accept a student who has not met University qualifications, the file is sent to the GAC for review.

• Departments may appeal to the GAC for an exception to the 3.00 GPA requirement
  and

• Departments may appeal to the GAC for an exception to the requirement that the prior school was accredited.

Policy Beginning September 2006

If an ANR is returned from a department with an accept decision and the student’s GPA is between 2.75 and 2.99, the admissions staff may admit the student conditionally without sending the file to the GAC if the department has requested Conditional Admission.

If the department asks for full admission or provisional admission for applicants within this grade range, the file must go to the GAC.

How OSU Calculates the GPA for Admission Consideration

Calculation of GPA:

1. Calculate the GPA using last 90-quarter (60 semester) credit hours; if the number falls in the middle of a term, the entire term is used in the calculation.
   a. Only use regular graded courses (including the + & -) in the GPA calculation.
   b. Pass hours do not count in the last 90-quarter (60 semester) credit hours.
   c. Courses at a professional level do not count in the GPA calculation (PharmD, DVM, MD, etc.).

2. Calculate the GPA on any postbaccalaureate/graduate courses.

3. Combine the GPA from the last 90-quarter (60 semester) credit hours with the postbaccalaureate/graduate GPA to get the cumulative GPA.

4. Repeated courses follow the current regulations set for OSU students. (OSU forgives the first course and counts the second attempt in the GPA calculation. Academic Regulation 20 contains the full policy.)
24-Hour Rule

Applicants who are denied admission may also be admitted by fulfilling the “24-hour” requirement, instead of GAC review. The 24-hour rule requires the following:

Completion of a minimum of 24 credits of upper-division and non-blanket courses at OSU with a grade or B or better (B- not allowed)

Students are admitted upon successful completion of 24-hour rule regardless of resulting cumulative GPA.

A detailed explanation of the 24 hour rule can be found in the catalog (see “Reclassification of Postbaccalaureate Students, Nondegree-Seeking Students, and Graduate Certificate Students”).

Graduate Admissions Committee (GAC)

General Guidelines

- GAC meets twice a month, with the exception of the month of July. During July the committee may meet if there is a need, or on a case-by-case basis.

- GAC decisions are valid for two academic years.

The GAC can admit students under three categories (see below), deny admission, or defer for additional information or grades. The categories for admission are:

**Full**: Students are not tracked after admission and do not have any special requirements to fulfill.

**Conditional**: Students are tracked by the Graduate School and must maintain both a 3.00 cumulative grade point average on all work taken as a graduate student. A grade of B (3.0) or better must be earned in every course taken during the first 18 hours of graded graduate credits.

**Provisional**: Students are tracked by the academic department. Provisions are set by the academic department as requirements for admission or continued studies. Provisions can include minimum standardized test scores, specific course work to be completed successfully, a GPA higher than 3.25, etc.

Graduate Admission Committee members can choose to recommend a combination of conditional and provisional admission, which assures that the standard conditions are tracked by the Graduate School and that any special provision outside the standard condition is enforced by the academic department.

Documents Provided for GAC Review:

1. Signed and dated Departmental Action Form (DAF)
   - a. If the person is an MAIS (Master of Arts in Interdisciplinary Studies) applicant, the GAC requires at least two accepted DAFs from the three areas in order to review the file. One of these DAFs must be the primary area. However, the applicant cannot be admitted until all three DAFs are returned.
2. Signed and dated University Graduate Admissions Committee U.S. Credentials Worksheet
3. Letter of support from the department
4. Minimum of two (preferably three) letters of recommendation
5. Statement of objectives
6. Applicable test scores (GRE, GMAT, etc.)

Excerpts from the Graduate Catalog

Oregon State University offers admission to applicants whose records demonstrate the highest potential for graduate study and promise for substantial contribution to both their academic professions and to a diverse, global society. The university fosters an environment that welcomes inclusiveness.

Admission decisions are based on many factors, such as the quality of the applicant’s prior academic degree and record of accomplishment, statement of purpose, letters of recommendation from professors or others familiar with the applicant’s academic work, performance in aptitude and achievement tests, relevant work experience, preparation in the proposed field of study, and the connection of the applicant’s academic goals with the faculty’s research interests.

Admission Requirements

The following minimum entrance requirements guide the university and its graduate programs in the consideration of applicants for graduate admission:

A four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, and

- A combined GPA of 3.00 on the last 90 quarter credits (60 semester credits) of graded undergraduate work on the first baccalaureate degree plus all work completed thereafter. Minimum GPA for admission to only graduate certificate programs is set by the departments that supervise the certificates. Applicants requesting admission to only graduate certificate programs should contact their departments to learn about minimum GPA and other admission requirements.

OR:

- A four-year baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university and a 45-quarter credit hour graduate degree from an accredited university.

Minimum entrance requirements for international students are listed under International Student Requirements below.

Students not meeting minimum requirements still may be considered for admission with the support of their academic department, plus review and approval by the University Graduate Admissions Committee. For these applicants, decisions may rely more heavily on noncognitive criteria. However, the university encourages applicants whose overall undergraduate GPA on the last 90 credits is less than 3.00 (4.00=A) to take the GRE.

Students whose baccalaureate degrees are awarded by an institution that issues non-graded transcripts will be considered for admission with the support of the department’s written evaluation of the quality of the student’s transcript record.

Satisfaction of minimum entrance requirements does not guarantee admission, since the number of qualified applicants far exceeds the number of places available. As a consequence, many well-qualified applicants may not be accommodated.
**International Student Requirements**

General graduate admission standards for international students require the following:

The equivalent of a U.S. baccalaureate degree of at least four years duration with a B average (equivalent 3.00 on a U.S. 4.00 grading scale) in the last two years, plus all subsequent graded course work; or a four-year equivalent baccalaureate degree with a two-year equivalent graduate degree. Minimum GPA for admission to only graduate certificate programs is set by the departments that supervise the certificates. Applicants requesting admission to only graduate certificate programs should contact their departments to learn about minimum GPA and other admission requirements. And,

English language proficiency demonstrated by a TOEFL minimum score of 550 (paper-based test) or 213 (computer-based test). Graduate applicants must meet both the following subtest and total scores if Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) scores are submitted:

- **Reading:** Minimum 18
- **Listening:** Minimum 18
- **Speaking:** Minimum 18
- **Writing:** Minimum 18

**Total Score:** Minimum 80

*Please note* that OSU requires graduate applicants to meet or exceed all five scores to be eligible for full admission. A minimum score of 7.0 on the IELTS may be used as an alternative to the TOEFL test. Scores must be no more than two years old at the time of the applicant’s first term of registration. And,

- Documentation of sufficient financial resources to attend Oregon State University as a graduate student.

The English language proficiency requirement is waived for international students who have completed a bachelor's or advanced degree at a U.S. university. University conditional admission of international students presenting TOEFL scores of at least 500 (paper-based test) or 173 (computer-based test) may be granted if the applicant is otherwise fully admissible. Graduate applicants who score below the minimum on one or more iBT subtests but meet the minimum overall iBT score requirement may be considered for conditional admission. Conditional admission is on option for applicants who meet all other admission requirements and achieve a minimum total Internet-based TOEFL score of 60. Conditional admission based on English language proficiency may be granted to applicants seeking admission to a graduate degree program. Conditional admission based on English language proficiency may not be granted to students seeking admission to only a graduate certificate program. Conditional admission for degree-seeking students requires:

1. on-campus testing of English language proficiency prior to enrollment and
2. compliance with the subsequently specified plan for English and academic course work during each quarter until such time as the student qualifies for regular admission.

Individual departments may require additional documents such as GRE and GMAT test results or higher English and academic standards. For detailed information, refer to the Office of Admissions and individual graduate departments.

**Admission Status**

Students may be admitted to the Graduate School under the following categories.
Advanced-Degree Students

1. **Regular Graduate Students.** These students have been accepted by the university and by a major department to work toward an advanced degree.

2. **Conditionally Admitted Graduate Students.** Students who have not met the formal admission requirements but whose accomplishments have convinced the University Graduate Admissions Committee and their major departments that they have potential for success as advanced degree candidates may be conditionally admitted as follows:

   *Note: The standard condition invoked by the GAC is that students must complete the first 18 hours of graded course work in graduate status with no less than a "B" in every course. (Rosemary)*

   a. Students from nonaccredited institutions must complete at least one term of satisfactory work at Oregon State, after which they may be admitted with full standing in the Graduate School.

   b. Students whose preparation does not warrant full admission to the Graduate School but who may prove acceptable later must satisfactorily complete specified conditions to demonstrate their ability to carry out graduate-level work.

   c. International students who otherwise have met all formal admission requirements but whose TOEFL score is in the range of 500 to 549 (paper-based test) or 173 to 212 (computer-based test) may be conditionally admitted. *Conditional admission based on English language proficiency may not be granted to students seeking admission to only a graduate certificate program. Students who score below the minimum on one or more iBT subtests but meet the minimum overall iBT score requirement may be considered for conditional admission. Those who meet all other admission requirements and achieve a minimum total iBT score of 60 may be considered for conditional admission.*

3. **Provisionally Admitted Graduate Students.** Students who have met all of the university standards for formal admission but whose academic program or major department may have placed additional restrictions upon their admission may be provisionally admitted. These restrictions may include certain prerequisite courses that must be completed, completion of the GRE or GMAT, submission of additional reference letters or scores, etc.

   *Note: The GAC can honor provisions requested by the academic department and also invoke conditional admission if they think the GPA should be monitored by the Graduate School. Conditions are monitored by the Graduate School, but provisions are monitored by the academic departments. (Rosemary)*

Provisionally admitted students cannot take the final exam for their degree until they have satisfied their provisions and have been reclassified as regular graduate students.

Credit for graduate courses students have completed acceptably while registered as conditional or provisional students may count toward the residence requirement for advanced degrees.

If students fail to satisfactorily complete these conditions or provisions, they will be dismissed from the Graduate School.

**Nondegree-Seeking Graduate Students**

The nondegree-seeking graduate student category may be used by holders of a baccalaureate degree who do not wish to pursue an advanced degree at Oregon State University. Those nondegree-seeking graduate students who wish to be reclassified as degree-seeking graduate students must follow the procedure in the next section.
Reclassification of Postbaccalaureate Students, Nondegree-Seeking Students, and Graduate Certificate Students

A postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student may be considered for status as a regular degree-seeking graduate student under one of the following provisions, depending upon prior academic records:

If the student would have been eligible for graduate admission at the time of entering as a postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student, the student is eligible for admission consideration at any time.

If the student, prior to entering as a postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student had been denied graduate admission or would have been ineligible for graduate admission, as determined a posteriori by the University Graduate Admissions Committee, the postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, or graduate certificate student must:

- complete 24 credits of courses each with a grade of "B" (3.00) or better, or
- complete sufficient credits to bring the cumulative grade point average (that for the last 90 credits of undergraduate work plus that for courses taken as part of the 24-hour rule) to 3.00 or better before being eligible to apply for graduate admission.

These courses will normally be regular graduate courses relevant to the specific field, except that seminars and other blanket number graduate courses may not be used. Upper-division undergraduate courses are acceptable, provided that they eliminate specific deficiencies in requirements for entry into an identified graduate program. Lower-division undergraduate courses may not be used. All courses should be carefully selected in consultation with an academic advisor from the graduate field into which the student desires admission.

Completion of either 2(a) or 2(b) above does not guarantee graduate admission. Reclassification decisions employ the same procedures and requirements as those for admission.

Postbaccalaureate, nondegree-seeking graduate, and graduate certificate students who seek reclassification must be acceptable to the department in which they plan to major. The university does not have the capacity to accommodate all who meet the minimum requirements for regular graduate student status; when selecting among students who meet minimum requirements, the university treats students requesting reclassification the same as those applying for admission as regular graduate students.

A postbaccalaureate or nondegree-seeking graduate student may use graduate credit earned in this status toward an advanced degree or graduate certificate if the student is later reclassified as a regular graduate student. This credit cannot be used to satisfy residence requirements for an advanced degree. A graduate certificate student may use graduate credit earned in this status toward an advanced degree if the student is later reclassified as a regular graduate student. In either case, the amount of usable credit will depend on the size of the individual student's program (e.g., a maximum of 15 graduate credits could be used on a 45-credit master's program or a maximum of 6 graduate credits may be applied toward an 18-credit graduate certificate.)...