

Approval of Changes to the Admissions Policies for The Master of Business Administration Degree Program

After benchmarking against area competitors (e.g, Virginia Commonwealth University, James Madison University, George Mason University, and Shenandoah University) and reviewing the sites of other Commonwealth business schools, the College of Business faculty recognized that they some schools are granting **waivers for relevant work experience** in lieu of taking the GMAT or GRE as an admission requirement for some of the MBA programs. UMW needs to do the same in order to be successful in attracting applicants to the MBA program.

On September 2, 2015, the College of Business faculty unanimously approved two forms of waiver. The requirement to submit GMAT or GRE scores as part of the MBA application would be waived if the applicant:

1. had five (5) or more years of full-time, post-baccalaureate work experience with demonstrated career advancement consistent with the demands of the MBA program, or
2. possessed a professional certification (such as a CPA, CFA, CEBS).

Persons with established work experience and demonstrated career advancement or the professional designations have essentially established the ability to do advanced graduate work as a result of these achievements. These persons do not need to take the GMAT or the GRE in order to establish their qualifications for entrance into UMW's MBA program.

UMW has already been granting waivers for persons who have a previously earned post-graduate degree (such as a JD, Ph.D., or other Master's degree) at the time they apply to the MBA program. The proposed changes to the MBA admissions policies add additional justified cases in which a waiver of the GMAT and GRE will be provided.

Another change is that a **minimum GMAT score** of 400 (or the equivalent GRE score) **will no longer be published**. Instead, each applicant will be evaluated on a holistic, case-by-case basis. This change will result improve admissions decisions by looking at the applicant's total record. The GMAT minimum score will still be a factor when making a decision in each individual case.

The revised MBA admissions requirements appear on the next page. Changes are shaded.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE MBA PROGRAM

(as approved by COB faculty; to be published in the *Graduate Academic Catalog*)

- Earned bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university
- GMAT or GRE required.
- Waivers for the GMAT/GRE requirement may be considered if the applicant has:

- Five (5) or more years of full-time, post-baccalaureate work experience with demonstrated career advancement consistent with the demands of the MBA program;
- A completed post-graduate degree (e.g., MD, JD, PhD, other earned Master's degrees); or
- Professional Certification (e.g. , CPA, CFA, CEBS, etc.).