

Graduate and Professional Council Meeting Minutes

Thursday 2 October 2025

Nagle 113; [Zoom Link](#)

Meeting ID: 976 0533 1135

Passcode: GPC2526

Participants

In Person

Mark C. Gleason (Graduate and Professional School), *Administrative Assistant*

Voting: Beverly Irby (Education and Human Development), Marcus Glass (Graduate and Professional Student Government)

Non-Voting: Charles Criscione (Graduate and Professional School), Michael Johnson (Provost), David Kessler (Arts and Sciences)

Online

Fuhui Tong (Graduate and Professional School), *Chair*

Voting: Mary Bryk (Agriculture and Life Sciences), Katherine “Katie” Reed (Architecture), Adam Seipp (Arts and Sciences), Kourtney Gruner (Business), Reginald Tayor (Dentistry), Duncan “Hank” Walker (Engineering), Robert “Bob” Shandley (Government and Public Service), Charlotte Ku (Law), Brett Mitchell (Medicine), Matthew Sorenson (Nursing), Donald “Don” House (Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts), Yinan Wei (Pharmacy), Rhonda Rahn (Public Health), Gregory “Greg” Johnson (Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences)

Non-Voting: Angel Carrizales (Curricular Services), Lara Chenault (Curricular Services), Lisa Haddad (Nursing), Kim Luttmann (Dentistry), Grisela Portales (Curricular Services), Karen Rambo-Hernandez (Education and Human Development), Sandra Williams (Registrar), Marissa Winking (Veterinary Medicine and Biomedical Sciences)

DISCUSSION ITEMS

1. Removal of Standard Test Score Requirements (Business) – *Attachment 1*

- [Tong] Introduction
 - Since the university removed the standardized test score requirement, requests to require applicants to submit test scores must be approved by the GPC, but only notification is needed for removal of requirements
 - Mays Business School has decided to remove the requirement for several programs effective for the 2025-2026 recruiting cycle
- Programs no longer requiring standardized test scores:
 - MBA-PMBA non-thesis, on-campus
 - MBA-PMBA non-thesis, distance

- MS-BUSI non-thesis, on-campus
- MS-MISY non-thesis, on-campus
- MS-MISY non-thesis, distance
- MS-HRMT non-thesis, on-campus
- MS-HRMT non-thesis, distance
- MS-MKTG non-thesis, on-campus

- Notification Received

2. November and December 2025 Curricular Approval Procedures (Provost)

- Introduction
 - [Tong] University has recently made changes to leadership structure with the Faculty Senate replaced by the Faculty Advisory Council
 - New committees will be responsible for reviewing curricular items
- Discussion
 - [Dorsey] Curricular Approvals
 - Faculty Advisory Council will not be established until sometime in Spring
 - UCC and GPC will continue to follow the previously established deadlines
 - For upcoming curricular approvals, a temporary university curriculum committee has been established to fulfill the Faculty Senate's former role
 - Curricular Assessment Process
 - [M. Johnson] Original assessment process has been put on hold, awaiting new guidance from the TAMU System; colleges and schools are currently doing internal assessments of curricula to ensure that course descriptions are aligned with what is in syllabus and taught in courses
 - [Walker/Dorsey] No relation to SACS-COC evaluation
 - [Tong/M. Johnson] TAMU System will move forward with an audit/assessment at some point, but the timeline has not yet been provided
 - [Dorsey] Any course already in progress should be evaluated to ensure consistency and transparency so that course description and syllabus are in line with material being taught
 - [M. Johnson] University making adjustment to Catalog Course Description format
 - Course Descriptions and Learning Outcomes
 - [Bryk/Johnson] Course learning descriptions should be in line with title, course description, and material being taught
 - [Dorsey] Will necessitate that all upcoming course change requests in CARS include a syllabus for evaluation of learning outcomes
 - [Reed/Johnson/Dorsey/Irby] Comprehensive review is not currently required, but encouraged, as Fall is when most academic units are

evaluating programs and courses in preparation for the next academic year

- [Criscione/M. Johnson/Walker] While course materials, presentation style, and methods may vary among instructors teaching different sections of the same course, the fundamental instruction and learning outcomes should not differ among instructors (except for certain courses) so that students will receive the same consistent results
- [Bryk/Tong/Williams] Adding learning outcomes to CARS course form is possible but would require development time and expense
- [Walker/M. Johnson] SimpleSyllabus currently in pilot phase; goal is for CV and syllabus modules fully operational and connected with Howdy by Fall 2026
- [Tong/Gleason] In consideration of the higher volume of curricular items, for October-November and November-December review cycles all voting members of the GPC will participate in evaluations – as done in previous years

CONSENT AGENDA (Approved)

1. Course Changes

[COSC 690: Theory of Research in Construction Science](#)

[DDDS 718: Integrated Practice of Dentistry Didactic II](#)

[NUTR 631: Clinical Practice Skills in Dietetics](#)

2. New Courses

[CHEM 614: Advanced Polymer Chemistry](#)

[HMGH 672: GIS Applications in Hospitality, Tourism and Recreation](#)

[MATH 657: Quantum Computation and Quantum Information Theory](#)

[MATH 665: Representation Theory of Lie Groups and Lie Algebras](#)

[MSCI 613: Medical and Physician Assistant School Preparation](#)

[MSCI 617: Introduction to Genetic Counseling](#)

3. Combined Programs

[BA-ECON/MS-ECON-LEC: Economics - 5-Year Bachelor of Arts and Master of Science in Economics](#)

[BS-ECON/MS-ECON-LEC: Economics - 5-Year Bachelor of Science and Master of Science in Economics](#)

CURRICULAR ITEMS

1. Course Changes

[ANTH 672: Ancient Biomolecules](#) **(Conditionally Approved)**

[RWFM 661: Foundations in Rangeland, Wildlife, and Fisheries Management](#) **(Returned)**

[STAT 618: Statistical Aspect of Machine Learning II: Modern Techniques](#) **(Withdrawn)**

2. New Courses

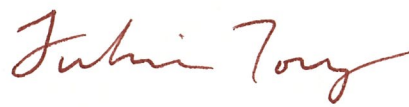
~~DDDS-009: Interprofessional Collaboration in Healthcare - Medical and Dental Integration~~
(Withdrawn)

~~DDDS-010: TAMU Disaster Day~~ (Withdrawn)

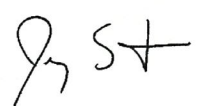
3. Program Changes

[MS-SDSC: Master of Science in Statistical Data Science](#) (Approved)

Attachment 1

To: Dr. Fuhui Tong,
Associate Provost and
Dean of the Graduate and Professional School
GradProcessing@tamu.edu 

Through: Dr. Jerry Strawser

Associate Dean for Graduate Programs and
Graduate Operations Committee Dean Mays Business School
jstrawser@tamu.edu 

From: Michael Alexander
Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs Mays Business School
Malexander_67@tamu.edu 

Date: September 16, 2025

Subject: Request to Require the Use of Standardized Test Scores for Mays Graduate Programs

Mays Business School currently has multiple graduate degree programs approved to require Standardized Tests for admission into graduate programs previously (Original Approval Memo from May 4, 2023). We request that the programs listed on **Attachment A - 2025 Mays Business School Graduate Standardize Testing by Program**, continue with the requirements specified for admissions as listed on Attachment A. The highlighted programs have changed from prior year.

Program Summary

Mays Business School graduate programs attract individuals from across the state, the country, and the world. As with many of our programs, applications for these new programs open annually, well before program start dates (9 to 11 months before program start dates), allowing for a thorough review of each applicant well in advance of admission decisions and program start. Annually, we receive over 1,600 completed applications across all graduate programs at Mays. In highly competitive markets, we offer admission to the most qualified candidates and rigorously pursue those admitted candidates to accept our offers of admission.

The application volume and acceptance rates place our programs among the most competitive graduate programs nationwide. Each candidate brings unique experiences and perspectives to our programs, all of which are considered in our admissions processes.

Request Summary

1. Mays Business School is requesting the requirement of standardized tests (GMAT/GRE) for the programs specified on the *2025 Mays Business School Graduate Standardize Testing by Program* to:
 - a. Allow for more consistent comparisons across candidates.
 - b. Ensure academic readiness for each admitted applicant.

- c. Allow for targeted pre-program preparation in our more quantitatively oriented programs and courses.
 - d. Meet rankings requirements for several national and international publications that use applicant, admit, and enrolled standardized test score data in their program rankings.
2. Standardized test scores are not the sole or most-heavily weighted criteria in our admissions decisions. Our admissions committees make decisions based on each unique applicant as reflected in:
 - a. resume or curricula vitae,
 - b. personal statement,
 - c. undergraduate school/college/program ranking and quality,
 - d. overall grade point average,
 - e. previous graduate school experience and performance,
 - f. overall quantitative academic and professional performance and success,
 - g. quality of recommendation letters,
 - h. relevant life, career, and work experiences.
3. In select programs, we provide waivers for the standardized test requirement when a candidate has demonstrated capabilities (through other non-standardized test score measures). See Attachment A for a list of the programs that provide waivers. The highlighted programs have changed from prior year.

Justification

It is in the best interest of applicants, students, select graduate degree programs, and Mays Business School to continue the requirement for official standardized test scores for admissions.

- Requiring the GRE or GMAT for applicants enables us to better compare applicants who graduated from an array of universities, colleges, or programs, both domestically and internationally.
- Standardized test scores serve as a valuable, assistive part of our admissions decisions and allow our evaluation committees to compare applicants using a common standard.
- Standardized test scores allow us to compare each applicant to historical indicators of academic success in each program.
- Standardized test scores serve as a counterbalance to subjective analyses of personal statements, recommendation letters, and admission interviews - which can be subject to biases from both the applicant and the reviewer.
- A GMAT or GRE requirement is an "industry standard" for most of our peer, aspirant, and competitor degree programs. A standardized test requirement must be continued to ensure our competitive standing among our peer, aspirant, and competitor programs.
- Several national and international rankings of our programs include a component related to the testing requirement.
 - Removing the testing requirement could negatively impact program rankings and the market's perception of our programs, resulting in additional, unnecessary challenges in recruiting top graduate students.
- Many of the Mays graduate programs are quantitatively challenging. Standardized test scores are critical in determining applicant readiness and student success planning (including required pre-work interventions).
 - Without standardized tests, it becomes more challenging for admissions committees to assess applicant readiness and success for non-analytic undergraduate degrees or candidates with lower undergraduate GPAs.

- Without standardized tests, we risk admitting students who would not be successful in our programs, resulting in high costs to the students in leaving their employment, relocating to Bryan/College Station, and enrolling in our programs.
- Without the GMAT or GRE, we would likely need to add prerequisite courses to many of our programs.
 - Additional prerequisite courses could be an unnecessary burden and cost to incoming students.
 - Additional prerequisite courses could prevent select students from choosing Texas A&M for their graduate business education.
- Select Mays graduate programs (a selection of those programs that require a standardized test for admissions) also have a test waiver process to use in individual applicant situations where the test:
 - Is not needed to assess candidate readiness or
 - Would place an undue or inequitable burden on an otherwise qualified candidate.

Standardized Test Weighting, Score Usage, and Test Waivers

We will align the same standardized test weighting, score usage, and test waivers established previously. All programs using waivers will submit the ***Standardized Test (GRE/GMAT) Waiver Memo*** (Attachment B) to the Graduate and Professional School.

We request to be able to require the GMAT or GRE standardized test for new applicants as a critical criterion for admission to the several Mays Graduate Programs.

Please let us know if you need additional information or clarification.

Thank you for helping us continue to provide excellence in our graduate programs at Mays Business



School.

Michael Alexander

Assistant Dean for Graduate Programs

Mays Business School | Texas A&M University

4356 TAMU | 390 Wehner Bldg | College Station, TX 77840-4356

malexander@mays.tamu.edu

Received by the Graduate and Professional Council on Thursday 2 October 2025.



cc Nate Y. Sharp, Ph.D. - Dean, Mays Business School
Shrihari Sridhar, PhD - Senior Associate Dean, Mays Business School
Jerry Strawser, Ph.D. - Associate Dean for Graduate Programs, Mays Business School and
Interim Head of the Department of Finance, Mays Business School
Michael Withers, Ph.D. - Associate Dean for Research and Scholarship
Sean McGuire, Ph.D. - Head, Department of Accounting, Mays Business School
Rich Metters, PhD - Head, Dept of Information and Operations Management, Mays Business School
Srikanth Paruchuri, PhD - Head, Department of Management, Mays Business School
Manjit Yadav, Ph.D. - Head, Department of Marketing, Mays Business School
Catherine Rouche-Herdman - Senior Associate Director, Office of Admissions Mays
Graduate Curriculum Committee member

Attachment A - 2025 Mays Business School Graduate Standardize Testing by Program

Mays Graduate Programs	Standardized Test NOT REQUIRED	Standardized Test REQUIRED	Individual Test Waivers Offered
Mays PhD Programs			
Doctor of Philosophy in Business Administration		Yes	No
Doctor of Philosophy in Management		Yes	No
Graduate Programs Office			
Full-Time MBA Program		Yes	Yes
Bahr Engineering MBA	√		
Executive MBA Program (F2F and Distance Ed)	√		
Professional MBA Program (F2F and Distance ed)	√		
Master of Business Administration (MBA) (Distance Ed) – a.k.a. Flex Online MBA		Yes	Yes
Master of Business Administration (MBA) & MS Analytics Combined Degree Program (F2F and Distance Ed)		Yes	No
MS Analytics (F2F and Distance Ed)		Yes	Yes
MS Business	√		
James Benjamin Department of Accounting			
MS Accounting	√		
MS Accounting (Distance Ed) – a.k.a. Flex Online MS Accounting	√		
Adam C. Sinn '00 Department of Finance			
Master of Financial Management in Financial Management	√		
Master of Real Estate in Land Economics and Real Estate		Yes	Yes
MS Finance		Yes	No
MS Quantitative Finance		Yes	No
Department of Information and Operations Management			
MS Supply Chain and Analytics		Yes	Yes
MS Management Information Systems	√		
MS Management Information Systems (Distance Ed) – a.k.a. Flex Online MS Management Information Systems	√		
Department of Management			
MS Entrepreneurial Leadership	√		
MS Entrepreneurial Leadership (Distance Ed) – a.k.a. Flex Online MS Entrepreneurial Leadership	√		
MS Human Resource Management	√		
MS Human Resource Management (Distance Ed) – a.k.a. Flex Online MS Human Resource Management	√		
Department of Marketing			
MS Marketing	√		
MS Marketing (Distance Ed) – a.k.a. Flex Online MS Marketing	√		

Attachment B

Standardized test waiver request memos will be:

1. Requested by the program or degree program seeking the waiver.
2. Signed by the submitting program's Department Head.
3. Sent to GradProcessing@tamu.edu for review.
4. *Addressed to* Catherine Rouche-Herdman in Admissions

Catherine Rouche-Herdman
Senior Associate Director, Office of Admissions
catherinerh@tamu.edu

5. Forwarded by the Graduate and Professional School to Admissions Processing.
6. Forwarded back to the originating program, once approved, by Admissions Processing (for final notification of approval).

Sample, next page

[DATE]

To: Catherine Rouché-Herdman
Senior Associate Director, Office of Admissions
catherinerh@tamu.edu

Through: Dr. Fuhui Tong,
Associate Provost and
Dean of the Graduate and Professional School
GradProcessing@tamu.edu

Through: [Department Head Name]
[Department Head Title]
[Department Head Email]

From: [Program Director Name]
[Program Director Title]
[Program Director Email]

Re: Standardized Test (GRE/GMAT) Waiver
[Degree Program Name]

The Mays Business School [Program Name] is requesting to waive the requirement for a standardized test score for the individuals listed below. Due to prior academic results and professional work experience the admissions committee determined there is sufficient evidence, without a standardized test score, to indicate a high likelihood of success in the program.

[INSERT TABLE]

Last Name	First Name	UIN	Program	Major

Admissions: Please route approved standardized test score waivers back to
[Program Director Name]
[Program Director Email]