

## Graduate and Professional Council Meeting Minutes

April 7, 2022

<https://tamu.zoom.us/j/93848082735?pwd=ck45OW12M1UwZFpTclFpU1lvUlhKZz09>

Meeting ID: 938 4808 2735

Passcode: 995438

### ATTENDEES

#### *In-Person*

Karen Butler-Purry, Chair  
Christian Brannstrom, Maria Escobar-Lemmon, Hank Walker  
Laura Rueda  
Mark C. Gleason, Administrative Assistant

#### *Online*

Mary Bryk, Jeffrey Hatala, Mansoor Khan, Madhu Nair, Rajesh Miranda, Katherine Reed,  
Michael Shaub, Matthew Sorensen, Mark Zoran  
Alicia Dorsey, Nicole Kinslow, Antoinette Quigg, Sandra Williams  
Staci Rende

### DISCUSSION ITEMS

#### **GRE Requirement Request for the Advanced Certificate in Orthodontics – *Attachment 1***

- [Butler-Purry] Introduction
  - Recently approved Permanent Elimination of University Standardized Test Requirement for Graduate Admissions (as of 3 February 2022) will go into effect as 2022-2023 recruiting cycle for Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 admissions
  - Programs wanting to require standardized testing scores would need to submit request with justification; guidelines for justification will be developed in Spring-Summer 2022
  - Department of Orthodontics in the College of Dentistry made an early request as admissions process begins sooner than other graduate programs
- [Nair] Presentation
  - The program receives about three hundred applicants, thirty-two to thirty-six selected for interviews, for six graduate positions in the orthodontics certificate program
  - Currently use several metrics for evaluation
    - Honors and awards, reference letters, personal statements, record of research
    - National dental board scores
    - GPA and class rank remain primary metrics of evaluation

- Has become difficult to fully evaluate applicants
  - New format of national dental board exam no longer provide scores, only result of pass or fail
  - Not all dental schools provide GPAs and/or do not ranks students, some schools have grade inflation issues
  - New national dental board exam (Advanced Dental Admission Test) is new, expensive, and not yet shown to demonstrate efficacy
  - Lack of GPAs and other scores make distinguishing between applicants more difficult
- Requirement of GRE would serve as a secondary tool to assist in selection process
  - Reasonable and positive correlation between thesis writing (MS in Oral Biology) and overall resident performance with GRE scores
  - Have not seen adverse effects of using GRE scores on number of applicants and admissions from underrepresented groups
- Questions
  - [Miranda/Nair] based upon current trends and factors, the College of Dentistry does not believe there will be negative effects on underrepresented applicants
  - [Miranda/Nair] concern as to whether the GRE is a good predictor of outcomes
    - Will be only one of several factors in an evaluation
    - Correlates with other performance-based metrics
    - Needed mainly due to the fact that the national dental board exam does not provide adequate scoring information
- **Approved**

## CONSENT AGENDA (Approved)

### 1. Course Changes

[CHEN 610: Humanitarian Engineering](#)

[CSCE 629: Analysis of Algorithms](#)

[ECEN 608: Modern Control](#)

[EDCI 641: The African American Learner in Urban Settings](#)

[EPSY 632: Social and Emotional Development and Interventions](#)

[MSEN 625: Mechanical Behavior of Materials](#)

[NUEN 612: Radiological Safety and Hazards Evaluation](#)

### 2. New Courses

[MEEN 671: Human Sensing Technologies](#)

[RWFM 659: Human Dimensions of Parks and Protected Areas](#)

### 3. Course Inactivations

[MEEN 604: Time Frequency Nonlinear Vibration Control](#)

[MEEN 619: Conduction and Radiation](#)

[MEEN 623: Tensor Analysis for Engineers](#)

[MEEN 636: Turbulence: Theory and Engineering Applications](#)

[MEEN 638: Mechanics of Non-Linear Fluids](#)

[MEEN 641: Quantitative Feedback Theory](#)

[MEEN 646: Aerothermodynamics of Turbomachines](#)

[MEEN 670: Compressible Flow](#)

[MEEN 678: Aerosol Mechanics](#)

**4. Program Changes**

[MAG-ADEV: Master of Agriculture in Agricultural Development](#)

[MS-ALEC: Master of Science in Agricultural Leadership, Education, and Communication](#)

## COURSES

**1. Course Changes**

[MEEN 686: Composite Materials Processing and Performance \(Approved\)](#)

**2. New Courses**

[MARA 690: Maritime Interdisciplinary Studies - Business, Law and Policy \(Approved\)](#)

[STAT 660: Flexible Regression \(Approved\)](#)

[TCMT 630: Organizational Leadership for Senior Technical Leaders \(Approved\)](#)

[TCMT 636: Persuasive Communications for Technical Managers \(Approved\)](#)

**3. Course Inactivations**

[MARB 603: Cetacean Behavior and Behavioral Ecology \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 606: Advanced Concepts in Marine Population Biology \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 607: Research and Conservation in Greece-Dolphins, Fisheries and Cultural Heritage \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 615: Coastal Marine Biology and Geology of Alaska \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 616: Introduction to Methods in Scientific Diving \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 617: Research Diving Methods \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 620: Marine Biological Resources \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 633: Applied Bioinformatics \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 635: Marine Invertebrate Zoology \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 642: Marine Bioacoustics \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 654: Coastal Plant Ecology \(Approved\)](#)

[MARB 656: Tropical Marine Ecology \(Approved\)](#)

## PROGRAMS

**1. Program Changes**

[MS-ENTC: Master of Science in Engineering Technology \(Approved\)](#)

*Attachment 1*

**From:** [Tadlock, Larry P](#)  
**To:** [Butler-Purry, Karen L](#)  
**Cc:** [Nair, Madhu K](#)  
**Subject:** using GRE  
**Date:** Friday, March 25, 2022 6:21:03 PM  
**Attachments:** [Ltr Request to use GRE.docx](#)

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Dear Dr. Butler-Purry,

I was asked by Dr. Matt Nair, the Assoc. Dean of Graduate Studies at the School of Dentistry, to write you regarding our desire to continue using the GRE. I attached the letter.

Thank you,

Larry

**Larry P. Tadlock DDS, MS** | Department Head and Program Director  
Department of Orthodontics, College of Dentistry | Texas A&M University  
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**COLLEGE OF DENTISTRY**

**HEALTH SCIENCE CENTER**



**Department of Orthodontics**

March 16, 2022

Karen L. Butler-Purry, PhD, P.E., FIEEE  
Associate Provost and Dean  
Graduate and Professional School  
Texas A&M University  
Professor of Electrical and Computer Engineering  
1113 TAMU  
College Station, TX 77843-1113

Dear Dr. Butler-Purry,

The Department of Orthodontics at the College of Dentistry is one of the most respected graduate orthodontic programs in the U.S. Consequently, we get over 300 applicants each year for six residency positions, and the quality of these applicants is generally very strong. Our selection process is detailed and includes the GRE as a secondary-tertiary evaluation tool to assist us in the selection process. Class rank and GPA are the primary metrics we use; however, some dental schools have removed these, making our ability to distinguish between applicants more difficult. Additionally, the national board dental examination is now pass/fail only, while the graduate level dental exam (Advanced Dental Admission Test - ADAT) is new, doesn't have enough data to support its efficacy, and is very expensive.

I respectfully request your approval to continue requiring the GRE in our selection process. I understand that approval will be required annually.

Respectfully,

Larry P. Tadlock, DDS, MS  
Department Head and Program Director  
Department of Orthodontics

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Dallas, TX 75246

[www.dentistry.tamu.edu](http://www.dentistry.tamu.edu)

Approved by the Graduate and Professional Council on 7 April 2022

## Permanent elimination of university standardized test requirement for graduate admissions

**Proposed Revision of a university requirement:** Permanently eliminate the university standardized test requirement for graduate admissions for the recruiting cycle of AY2022-2023 (Fall 2023 and Spring 2024 admissions) and beyond. Individual programs will be allowed to require official scores on a standardized test upon request with a justification and approval by the Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional Council.

**Justification:** The university waived the standardized test requirement for graduate admissions for Fall 2020 admissions thru the recruiting cycle of AY2021-2022 (Fall 2022 and spring 2023 admissions) to address the restricted access to standardized tests that many prospective graduate students were experiencing because of the COVID-19 pandemic. Individual programs were allowed to require official scores on a standardized test upon request and approval by the Texas A&M University Graduate and Professional Council.

Over the past decade, significant concerns have been raised about the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) due to substantial score disparities, which are viewed by many as a systematic barrier to higher education for underrepresented minorities (URMs), such as Black, Hispanic, and low-income and/or first-generation students. Hence prior to the pandemic, many major universities were discussing the removal of the GRE exam from their admission processes based on those concerns. Further the National Science Foundation discontinued requiring the GRE exam for the Graduate Research Fellowship program more than five years ago. In July 2015, the National Institutes of Health eliminated standardized exam score reporting (e.g., MCAT, GRE) in the fellowship biosketch for their individual fellowship applications (F30 and F31).

It is worth noting that there was an increase from fall 2019 (standardized test scores were required) to fall 2021 (standardized test scores were not required) in graduate applications from Black/African American (347 to 391), Hispanic American (828 to 917), and female (2598 to 3066) applicants.

During fall 2021, the proposed elimination of the university standardized test requirement was discussed at several Graduate Operations Committee (GOC) meetings and at college Graduate Instruction Committee meetings.

Approved by the Graduate and Professional Council on February 3, 2022