

**From:** [Dean of Grad Ed & Postdoc Affrs](#)  
**To:** [Dean of Grad Ed & Postdoc Affrs](#)  
**Subject:** Considering our admissions successes, and the future of the GRE requirement  
**Date:** Monday, May 23, 2022 2:52:33 PM

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May 23, 2022

TO: GRADUATE DEPARTMENT AND GROUP CHAIRS

CC: GENERAL CAMPUS DEANS  
GENERAL CAMPUS ASSISTANT DEANS  
GRADUATE ADVISORS  
GRADUATE PROGRAM COORDINATORS

FROM: JAMES ANTONY, Dean of The Graduate Division

SUBJ: Considering our admissions successes, and the future of the GRE requirement

As you know, the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs is committed to examining and addressing the systemic biases that are too often weaved into the fabric of graduate education. The reliance on standardized test scores in the graduate admissions process may impede our ability to recruit the most talented and diverse cohorts of graduate students.

Scholars from across an array of disciplines are engaged in broad national discussions regarding the general GRE as a requirement for admission into graduate programs. Many of you, for example, have probably read papers and engaged in conversations about the [racial and gender differences for the quantitative test of the GRE \(Nature, 2014\)](#). Other research papers and commentaries on this topic have been published, and I point to some below:

- [The Problem With the GRE \(The Atlantic, 2016\)](#)
- [The Problem in Graduate Admissions is Culture, Not Testing \(ETS\)](#)
- [Typical physics Ph.D. admissions criteria limit access to underrepresented groups but fail to predict doctoral completion \(Science Advances, 2019\) and a response \(2020\)](#)
- [Multi-institutional study of GRE scores as predictors of STEM PhD degree completion: GRE gets a low mark \(PLOS ONE, 2018\)](#).

Many UC San Diego graduate programs have engaged in discussions within their programs about the utility of the GRE. My hope is that you will renew these discussions to determine whether extending, temporarily waiving, or permanently eliminating this requirement makes sense.

As a reminder, the requirement of the general GRE is established by individual graduate programs; the GRE is not a formal requirement at UC San Diego, nor is it a requirement of the Division of Graduate Education and Postdoctoral Affairs. Any program that currently requires the general GRE can submit a request to the Graduate Council to waive or permanently eliminate this requirement, and existing waivers may be extended. In the case of a waiver, the program would set the length of time for the waiver, after which the GRE would again become required.

Should you decide to waive the GRE for the first time, extend your existing waiver, or

permanently eliminate the program's GRE requirement, the Division of Graduate Education will facilitate your request, and share it with The Graduate Council. **To assist you, we have developed a webpage that offers [sample text and instructions](#) for drafting these requests.**

**Requests should come from the Program Director and Department Chair by email to Director of Graduate Admissions, Mary Hogan at [mhogan@ucsd.edu](mailto:mhogan@ucsd.edu) no later than June 1, 2022.**

