



July 27, 2020  
Academic Standards, Curriculum and Pedagogy Committee  
Coordinating and Planning Subcommittee

Dear Committee members,

We would like to eliminate the requirement that applicants for our graduate program provide scores from the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) for the upcoming admission cycle (December 2020 for September 2021 admission). All seven of our graduate areas—including the two clinical areas—unanimously agreed to drop the requirement for this year only, because of the difficulties that students are facing due to the pandemic. The GRE is typically written in person but due to the ongoing COVID 19 crisis, everything must be done on line. This disadvantages those students who have limited access to quiet testing space, as well as those who have unstable or slow internet connections. We are requesting this change for this year only, and will reinstate the requirement next year, assuming that the situation will be back to normal then. This change is in line with Psychology departments at all other major Canadian universities (including the University of Toronto), who are also dropping the requirement for this upcoming admission cycle.

While GRE scores are typically used as one of the variables that factor into an applicant's overall admissibility, they have never been the sole determinant, and in fact, in some of our graduate areas, count for very little. Dropping the GRE requirement this year will not significantly reduce our ability to select top-ranked students—it will simply level the playing field for those students who may have been unable to write the exam this year.

This temporary change has been unanimously approved by each of the graduate areas, after consultation with each area coordinator. The change has also been unanimously

approved by our Graduate Executive committee and by the Faculty of Health Graduate Committee. The Dean's office in the Faculty of Graduate Studies is also supportive of this temporary change. There are no requirements to alter existing calendar copy, just to update the relevant websites and Graduate Admissions.

Thank you for considering this request!

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in blue ink that reads "Suzanne MacDonal". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large initial 'S'.

Suzanne E. MacDonald, PhD  
University Professor *and*  
Graduate Program Director, Psychology

