S.A. Resolution #60

Requesting the Waiving of GMAT/GRE Requirements for Fall Cornell Graduate School Applications

ABSTRACT: A resolution to request that the university waive the GRE/GMAT requirement for Cornell’s Fall Graduate School applicants.

Sponsored by: Ian Wallace ‘20, Gavin Martin ‘20

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented scenario in higher education that has not been seen before;

Whereas, the COVID-19 pandemic has interrupted academic and non-academic activities, including in-person GRE exams, for the foreseeable future;

Whereas, though the GRE has moved online, testing remains inequitable;

Whereas, access to study space, resources, high speed internet, etc. Varies tremendously between individuals. Additionally, the GRE online exam cannot be taken on iOS systems;

Whereas, many students only have easy access to iOS systems and social distancing guidelines make access Windows computers for test taking extremely difficult;

Whereas, those who catch and recover from COVID-19 cannot be expected to study during the duration of their illness and subsequent recover;

Whereas, even under ideal conditions, the ability of standardized tests to adequately measure the capability of applicants is questionable.

Whereas, Mississippi State University and Bowling Green State University have announced that they will be temporarily waiving GMAT/GRE requirements for fall applications;

Whereas, the list of universities waiving these requirements is likely to grow and Cornell should be leading this charge;

Whereas, individual departments at Cornell have begun to waive GRE requirements in response to the COVID-19 pandemic;

Be it therefore resolved, that Cornell University commit to temporarily waiving the GMAT/GRE requirement for fall graduate school applications;

1 https://www.msstate.edu/newsroom/article/2020/03/msu-waiving-gmatgre-requirements-summer-and-fall-graduate-school
Be it therefore resolved, Cornell University advertise departments which have waived GMAT/GRE scores as application requirements on the Cornell Graduate School Admissions webpage;

Be it finally resolved, that this resolution be sent to the Director/Dean of Admissions for each graduate program, in order to expedite the normative process.

Respectfully Submitted,

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Vice President of Research & Accountability, Student Assembly
College of Arts & Sciences Representative, Student Assembly

(Reviewed by: Executive Committee, 6-0-0, 04/07/2020)