



Doctoral Admissions Requirement Criteria
Global & Sociocultural Studies
Fall 2013 - Spring 2014

The Department of Global & Sociocultural Studies (GSS) uses the following criteria to evaluate applicants for admission into the doctoral program. GSS's Graduate Program Committee uses these criteria to help identify and recruit students with training, skills, and intellectual interests that are suitable for the department.

Personal Statement: GSS uses the personal statement to evaluate whether or not the departmental research strengths fit well with the applicant's stated research and intellectual interests. This is one of the most crucial components of our evaluation process; since we want to make good matches for both the student and the department. A strong personal statement clearly identifies a potential research project (or area of interest) and faculty mentors.

Writing Sample: Students applying to the GSS doctoral program should include a writing sample, such as a paper or thesis, in their applications. This is one of our key criteria. The Graduate Program Committee uses the sample to evaluate the applicant's writing capabilities and critical thinking skills.

Prior Training: GSS evaluates the applicant's past training and educational background (including type of undergraduate program, prior degrees, and professional experience) to help us determine the applicant's preparedness for our program.

GRE: While GSS does not have a minimum GRE score for admission to the doctoral program, we do consider the GRE an important evaluative tool. We recognize that cultural and linguistic differences, as well as learning styles, make the GRE an imperfect predictor of student success. Therefore, we evaluate GRE scores (verbal, quantitative, and analytical) separately and in relation to other admissions criteria. While the Graduate Program Committee utilizes a rubric of assessment which includes various dimensions, applicants scoring above the 60% on the verbal and quantitative dimensions as well as above 70% on the analytical dimension are assured of receiving serious consideration.

GPA: Students applying to the GSS doctoral program should have a minimum 3.0 grade point average from their undergraduate study or from graduate training in another program.

Letters of Recommendation: Recommendations from applicants' former professors, mentors and colleagues are important criteria GSS uses in the admissions process. Applicants should encourage their letter writers to address how the applicant's prior studies, research experience, and personal background will contribute to their success in our program.

DEPARTMENT OF GLOBAL & SOCIOCULTURAL STUDIES
COLLEGE OF ARTS & SCIENCES
SCHOOL OF INTERNATIONAL & PUBLIC AFFAIRS

GSS Graduate Committee

The Graduate Committee (GC) meets at the request of the Graduate Director who serves as its Chair. The GC is composed of five members of the graduate faculty. Any member of the Department Graduate Faculty may serve on the Graduate Committee.

The duties of the Graduate Committee include:

1. Assisting the Director of Graduate Studies in the overall management of the graduate program.
2. Reviewing applications and making admissions and funding recommendations.
3. Overseeing the admissions process, particularly regarding the provision of information to prospective students.
4. Should the need arise, meeting with graduate students to review graduate regulations and procedures.
5. Considering graduate student petitions.
6. Performing yearly evaluations of all graduate students.
7. Evaluating graduate-student papers in the annual competition.
8. Making decisions on graduate-student awards.
9. Developing and updating guidelines and regulations for the Department's consideration.
10. Reviewing and updating the listing of graduate courses.
11. Working with the Director of Graduate Studies to develop a two-year course matrix.