Admissions

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Applicants for Degree and Certificate Programs

Prospective graduate students (including transfers) are encouraged to complete an inquiry form (for on-campus programs [https://wvugrad.askadmissions.net/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=grad] or online programs [https://wvugrad.askadmissions.net/emtinterestpage.aspx?ip=extendedlearning]) and are urged to contact the relevant academic department regarding specific admissions requirements and opportunities for pursuing graduate study. For a list of available degree and certificate programs, websites, and contacts, see this list of degree programs. (http://majors.wvu.edu) The Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu) provides information and links relevant to the application process with additional information regarding programs of interest to be found on individual programs' websites.

To be considered for admission to a WVU graduate program, prospective students must complete the WVU graduate admissions application [https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=wvugrad]. Some professional programs may also require application through another central service.

Each degree or certificate program has specific admission requirements that should be carefully reviewed prior to submitting an application. While applicants may meet the minimum University requirements, admission to WVU is determined by academic programs. Final admission cannot be granted until all final transcripts have been received and successful completion of the student’s bachelor’s degree (or master’s degree, if required) has been determined by the Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment. (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu)

Applicants who fail to enroll within a year after acceptance must reapply. Students admitted to and enrolled in a degree program who have not been enrolled for two or more years also must reapply for admission. Students classified as non-degree graduate students must apply for admission if they wish to pursue a degree or certificate program. Applicants who wish to pursue more than one degree must apply separately to each degree program. Some programs may not allow simultaneous enrollment in another program; applicants must obtain permission from both programs to simultaneously enroll in two programs.

Non-Degree Applicants

Students not wishing to pursue an advanced degree may apply for admission as a non-degree graduate student. A student who wishes to take courses as a non-degree graduate student after completing a degree at WVU must submit a new application and pay the nonrefundable application fee.

Admission as a non-degree student does not guarantee admission to any course or program. Some programs may allow non-degree students to enroll in its courses. The section on Degree Program Credit Limitations (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/advisingcoursesdegrees/#creditlimitstext) describes limits on the application of credits earned as a non-degree student to degree or certificate programs.

Currently Enrolled Students: Adding or Changing Programs

A current WVU graduate student who wishes to pursue a different or additional graduate degree, or to pursue a certificate, must first contact the program to determine the admissions process and procedures. In most cases, the student must formally apply to the other program by completing the WVU graduate admissions application [https://app.applyyourself.com/AYApplicantLogin/fl_ApplicantConnectLogin.asp?id=wvugrad].

When a student changes from one program to another within the University, the faculty of the new program determines if any credit (up to 12 credits) earned while enrolled in the prior program may be applied to the new program. Some programs may not allow simultaneous enrollment in another program; applicants must obtain permission from both programs to simultaneously enroll in two programs.

Minimum Admission Standards

The WVU Graduate Council establishes the minimum standards for admission to graduate study detailed in the Classifications (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext) section. Beyond this point, however, faculty members in a given graduate program control who is to be admitted to graduate study under their supervision. While a student may be admitted to the University to enroll in advanced coursework as a non-degree graduate student, only program faculty may grant permission for the pursuit of a graduate degree.
Standardized Tests

Many programs at WVU require specific graduate admission standardized test scores from all applicants. These admission requirements are found in the admissions section of each program description within the Graduate Catalog (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate) and in the Academics (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/academics/graduate-programs) page on the Graduate Admissions website. If standardized test scores are required, the applicant should ask the testing agency to send the scores to WVU. In addition, applicants are encouraged to upload a copy of their test scores, if available, as part of their online application in order to facilitate the WVU evaluation process.

Admission Denial

If an application for admission into a graduate program is denied, the applicant may request the reasons for refusal of admission by writing to the graduate program coordinator (see Academics (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/academics/graduate-programs) page). Note that meeting the minimum requirements for admission into a graduate program does not ensure admission. Many programs restrict the number of admissions by selecting among the qualified applicants. An applicant may appeal the graduate program coordinator for reconsideration if the applicant can document either factual errors in processing the application or that the decision was arbitrary, capricious, or discriminatory in nature.

If the matter is not resolved satisfactorily within thirty calendar days of the receipt of the appeal by the graduate program coordinator, the applicant may appeal to the dean of the college or school. The decision of the dean, as the provost's designee, shall be rendered within twenty calendar days of the receipt of the appeal and is final.

Admission Revocation

An offer of admission can be revoked if an applicant's application materials are found to be falsified or if an admitted student engages in behavior that is not in compliance with the WVU Student Conduct Code prior to the first day of classes in the term of admission. If admission is revoked prior to the first day of classes, the admitted student may appeal the action to the Associate Provost for Undergraduate or Graduate Academic Affairs. An enrolled student may be dismissed from the program or University if the student's application materials are found to be falsified, consistent with applicable policies or procedures (see Academic Standards (http://catalog.wvu.edu/undergraduate/coursecreditstermsclassification) in the Undergraduate Catalog or Academic and Professional Standards (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/enrollmentandregistration) in the Graduate/Professional Catalog.)

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Regular Graduate Students

Regular graduate students are degree- or certificate-seeking students who meet all the criteria for regular admission to a program of their choice. Regular graduate students must have earned a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or an international institution approved by the Ministry of Education or other appropriate agency in the institution’s country); must have had an undergraduate or graduate grade point average of 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale; must have met all the criteria established by the degree or certificate program; and must be under no requirements to make up deficiencies.

Provisional Graduate Students

Provisional graduate admission may be offered to students when they have earned a baccalaureate, graduate, or professional degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or an international institution approved by the Ministry of Education or other appropriate agency in the institution’s country) but do not meet the criteria for regular admission. Provisionally admitted graduate students may have incomplete credentials, deficiencies to make up, or an undergraduate or graduate scholastic record that shows promise but is below the 2.75 grade point average required for regular admission. The offer of provisional admission from the graduate program must specify the requirements that must be met for a student to be re-classified as a regular graduate student.

In addition, undergraduate students who have not yet completed their baccalaureate degree may be given provisional admission to allow them to take graduate courses as part of an approved combination program that allows simultaneous undergraduate and graduate work (such as accelerated bachelor’s/master’s programs, pathway programs, and other combination programs that include graduate work prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree).

Non-Degree Graduate Students

To be admitted as a non-degree graduate student, students must present evidence of a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university (or an international institution approved by the Ministry of Education or other appropriate agency in the institution’s country) and an undergraduate or graduate 2.5 grade point average. Non-degree graduate students must also earn a 2.5 grade point average on the first twelve credit hours of coursework taken at WVU and then maintain this average to continue to enroll as non-degree graduate students.
Reclassification of Graduate Students

Provisional graduate students who are not in an approved combination program may be reclassified as regular graduate students when they meet the program requirements specified in the offer of admission from the student’s program and the WVU minimum grade point average of 2.75 in all coursework taken while a provisional graduate student. A unit must review provisional students’ records and notify these students and the Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment of its decision to admit or not admit provisional students no later than the end of the term in which the students complete 18 credit hours. Provisional graduate students who fail to meet the provisions of admission or who fail to achieve the required grade point average will not be admitted. However, they may reapply for admission to another program or as non-degree students. Further registration by provisional graduate students who have completed 18 or more credit hours will only be permitted when students are reclassified as regular graduate students, provisional graduate students in a different program, or non-degree graduate students. An exception may be granted by an academic dean.

Provisional graduate students in approved combination programs (such as accelerated bachelor’s/master’s programs, pathway programs, and other combination programs that include graduate work prior to completion of the baccalaureate degree) may continue in the provisional status until they are reclassified as regular graduate students when their baccalaureate degrees are completed or pending.

To be eligible to enter a degree program as a regular graduate student, non-degree graduate students must have earned a 2.75 or higher-grade point average in all coursework taken since admission as a non-degree graduate student.

Regular and provisional students may become non-degree graduate students by choice. In addition, regular graduate students who are dismissed from a program for academic or other reasons will be reclassified as non-degree graduate students.

International Student Admission

WVU is authorized under federal law to enroll non-immigrant foreign nationals as students. International students wishing to enroll for graduate work at WVU must comply with the academic requirements for admission (http://catalog.wvu.edu/graduate/graduateeducationatwestvirginiauniversity/#classificationstext) and with certain additional academic and nonacademic requirements (http://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu/information-for/international-students).

Details regarding application requirements for international graduate students are provided by the Office of Graduate Admissions and Recruitment (https://graduateadmissions.wvu.edu). Applicants are encouraged to contact the academic program of interest for program-specific information about requirements other than the general admissions criteria listed above, and to begin the process of applying for admission well in advance of the desired admission deadline.

International students who are seeking or who have been offered financial support as graduate teaching assistants (GTAs) and whose native language is not English are required to pass the WVU SPEAK test (http://iep.wvu.edu/testing_resources/speak). The WVU SPEAK test must be passed prior to engaging in any classroom instruction.