

# Graduate Admissions Committee

## 2019-2020 Annual Report

DATE: July 15, 2020  
TO: Executive Committee, Faculty Senate, Oregon State University  
FROM: Tim Jensen, Graduate Admissions Committee Chair  
SUBJECT: 2019-2020 Annual Report for the Graduate Admissions Committee

### Committee Members:

Tim Jensen, Chair '21	College of Liberal Arts
Robert Allan '20	College of Earth, Ocean, and Atmospheric Sciences
Grace Atebe '20	Office of International Services
Evan Smouse '21	College of Business
Rory McDonnell '21	College of Agricultural Sciences
David Craig '22	College of Liberal Arts
TBA	
TBA	

Ex-Officio: Rosemary Garagnani – Graduate School  
Executive Committee Liaison: John Edwards/Kate MacTavish

The Graduate Admissions Committee operates under the Standing Rules of the OSU Faculty Senate, and under the policies and procedures formulated by the Graduate Council. The role of the Committee is to review files of Graduate School applicants who do not meet the admission requirements. The requirement is a grade point average (GPA) of 3.00 in the last 90 quarter hours or 60 semester hours of the undergraduate degree. For international students, there is an additional English requirement: a TOEFL score of 550 (213 on the computer version of the test, or 80 if Internet-based scores are submitted) or a degree completed at an accredited institution offering all course work in English.

Cases not meeting these minimum requirements may be appealed to the GAC for review with one of the following outcomes: admit regular, admit conditional, admit provisional or deny admittance. For a conditional admit, the standard condition is that students must earn a 3.00 (B grade) or better in each course of the first 18 hours of graded graduate credits. A provisional admit usually involves additional coursework or GPA stipulations imposed by the petitioning department. If students are denied admittance, they may still complete 24 hours of upper division courses or graduate work, earning a 3.00 or better, to be considered for admission if the department approves the acceptance. Students who use this avenue are not reconsidered by the Committee unless they petition based on fewer than 24 hours of completed work.

In 2006, the Faculty Senate voted to streamline the appeals process for those applications not meeting these minimum requirements. This policy change established that, for an applicant with a GPA of 2.75 or above (i.e., between 2.75 and 2.99), the admissions office will automatically grant the conditional admission as requested by the petitioning department without sending the file to Graduate Admissions Committee. If regular or provisional admission is requested instead, the file would be reviewed by the Committee. Similarly, if a department petitions for any form of admission for an applicant with a GPA below 2.75, the file would be reviewed by the Committee.

In reviewing cases, the Committee considers a range of predictors for success in graduate school, including standardized test scores (e.g., GRE), letters of recommendation, academic performance and work experience. Each file is reviewed by at least three committee members who look for substantive and compelling evidence indicating that the applicant will succeed at the graduate level to justify waiving the admission requirements.



Two members (Robert Allen and Grace Atebe) have completed their assignment on this committee; two members (Tim Jensen and Evan Smouse) will finish in 2021; and one member, David Craig, will finish in 2022.

Faculty Senate Standing Rules for this committee call for seven graduate faculty members. With four members returning, this committee will require three more faculty being added to its roster for AY 2020–2021. A Chair will also need selected.

Special thanks to Rosemary Garagnani and others at the Graduate School for their support.