

Motion to Consider Applicants with Three-Year Degrees into Graduate Programs

Dr. Lisa Armistead presented the motion to consider accepting applicants with three-year degrees into graduate programs. The university needs a clear, consistent standard to open the door to the possibility of accepting three-year degrees from all over the world. Dr. Armistead explained that three-year degree programs would need to be evaluated for baccalaureate equivalency by an out-of-house evaluator at an expense to the applicants. The outside evaluators will have to be approved; GSU already uses these companies to translate international degrees.

Effective Spring 2018

Motion: International applicants with three-year undergraduate degrees will be considered for admission into graduate programs. Such applicants will be reviewed by a Foreign Credential Evaluator in Graduate Admissions or an external professional evaluator and forwarded to programs for review if degree equivalency is established. As with all applicants, individual graduate programs will determine whether to admit applicants with three-year degrees.

Background and Rationale: Under the Bologna Process, European nations sought to standardize degrees such that three years was the standard time to degree. Australia and India also award degrees after three years of study. Generally, three year degrees tend to focus less on general education courses (i.e., freshman courses), with in depth focus on courses in the major. General education content is covered within the high school curriculum. Some of GSU's graduate programs have expressed interest in considering applicants from these institutions, and three-year degrees are considered for baccalaureate degree equivalence across a range of institutions nationwide, including George Mason University, Old Dominion University, University of Central Florida, Wichita State University, Indiana University-Perdue University Indianapolis, Stanford, and Georgia Institute of Technology.

Approved by Admissions and Standards September 2017