AOP 21.01 GRADUATE ADMISSION CRITERIA

PURPOSE

The purpose of this Academic Operating Policy and Procedure (AOP) is to specify the graduate admission criteria at Mississippi State University.

POLICY/PROCEDURE

The approved, recommended admission criteria and statements are:

1. Applicants seeking degree status must have a 2.75 GPA on the last two full years of undergraduate academic work or a 3.0 GPA on all graduate work already completed. Individual departments or programs may require a higher GPA for admission.

2. While the Graduate School does not require scores from standardized examinations such as the GRE or GMAT, each department or program may require the submission of standardized tests scores by applicants for consideration of admission.

3. Applicants not satisfying the GPA may be admitted (if recommended by the department) to a degree program as a provisional student. Provisional students must earn a 3.0 GPA on the first nine (9) hours of regular graduate-level courses taken at Mississippi State University (transfer hours will not apply) in order to achieve regular admission status. If a 3.0 is not attained in the first nine (9) hours, the provisional student may be dismissed from the Graduate School.

4. Applicants seeking non-degree or unclassified status must provide verification of receipt of the baccalaureate degree. Applicants in the unclassified category will be considered for admission by the Graduate School. Only nine (9) hours of graduate work received as an unclassified student may be transferred to a degree program. Individual departments or programs may place restrictions on unclassified students taking courses in their areas.

REVIEW

This AOP will be reviewed every four years, or whenever circumstances require an earlier review, by the Graduate Council with recommendations for revision presented to the Provost and Executive Vice President.

REVIEWED:

/s/ Russell Carr — 01/30/2026
Chair, Graduate Council — Date

/s/ Peter Ryan — 02/25/2026
Executive Vice Provost — Date

/s/ David Shaw — 05/11/2026
Provost and Executive Vice President — Date

/s/ Whitney Crow — 09/11/2026
President, Robert Holland Faculty Senate — Date

/s/ Tracey N. Baham — 09/14/2026
Associate Vice President, Institutional Strategic & Effectiveness — Date

/s/ Joan Lucas — 09/23/2026
General Counsel — Date

APPROVED BY:

/s/ Mark E. Keenum — 11/23/2026
President — Date