

ADMISSION TO GRADUATE SCHOOL
at
NORTHWESTERN STATE UNIVERSITY of LOUISIANA

Northwestern permits students to pursue “non-degree” options as well as programs that lead to the awarding of the Master’s degree and the Specialist in Education degree. However, all students enrolled in graduate-credit courses must meet all of the general admission requirements

General Admission To Graduate Study*

Requirements for admission to Graduate School in a “non-degree” status include:

1. A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university;
2. Official GRE total scores (Verbal + Quantitative) of at least 282 on new GRE test;
3. A completed application on file prior to registration;
4. Official transcripts on file from all universities attended;
5. Overall undergraduate grade point average of at least 2.0;
6. Two letters of recommendation.

**(Admission to Graduate School does not imply admission to a specific degree program.)*

Admission to Master’s Degree Programs

Regular Admission to a master’s degree program includes the following requirements:

1. A bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited college or university;
2. Minimum of 2.5 quality point average on all undergraduate hours pursued (minimum of 3.0 for admission to the Master of Science in Nursing the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology);
3. The undergraduate prerequisites for the degree to be pursued (see the General Catalog for specific requirements);
4. Official transcripts from all universities attended;
5. Two letters of recommendation.
6. GRE total scores for verbal and quantitative sections of at least 282 (290 for the Master of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Psychology);
7. Special requirements of the department for the degree to be pursued (see the *University Catalog* for specific requirements);

Provisional Admission to a master’s degree program, except for the Master of Science in Nursing and the Master of Science in Psychology, **may** be granted for **one semester/term** for students whose records, including GRE scores, have not been received.

Failure to remove provisional status after one semester/term will result in suspension from any degree program and placement of a hold preventing further registration. Upon submitting all required records, a student may later be admitted conditionally or regularly to a degree program, provided all requirements are met.

Conditional Admission to a master's degree program, (other than the Master of Science in Nursing, the Master of Science in Clinical Psychology and the Master of Science in Health & Human Performance) **may** be granted for **one semester, or for the first 9 semester hours**, of approved graduate study for either students whose GRE score is 280, or higher, but less than the required minimum of 282 (290 for the Master of Science degrees in Clinical Psychology and Nursing), or students whose undergraduate quality point average is 2.0 or better, but less than 2.5 (except for Master of Science degrees in Clinical Psychology and Nursing and Health & Human Performance). Conditional admission to a master's degree program in Health & Human Performance with concentrations in Sport Administration, Health Promotion or Physical Education may be granted for students whose GRE scores are at least 280, but less than the required minimum of 282, and who have an undergraduate GPA of 3.0. Conditional admission to a master's degree program in Clinical Psychology or Nursing may be granted for students whose GRE scores are at least 280, but less than the required minimum of 290.

Failure to achieve regular status after 9 graduate semester hours will result in suspension from any graduate degree program.

Reinstatement to a graduate degree program will require:

1. A lapse of five years during which no degree credit may be earned;
2. Re-admission and completion of 9 additional semester hours of approved degree credit at Northwestern State University with no grade lower than a B; and
3. Approval of the Dean of the Graduate School. (If reinstated, failure to maintain regular status will result in terminal suspension. Only approved degree credit will be computed in the grade point average.)

Admission to the Specialist Degree Program (Ed.S.)

To be considered for admission to a program leading to the Specialist in Education degree, an applicant must:

1. Hold a master's degree from a regionally accredited college or university and have a grade point average of at least 3.0 on all graduate work pursued;
2. Have an application on file with the Dean of Graduate Studies and Research;
3. Have official transcripts from all universities attended on file prior to registration;
4. Have a minimum combined GRE score of 282 on the verbal and quantitative parts for regular admission (280 for conditional admission);
5. Have a minimum of three years of successful, full-time teaching (except in the counseling and educational technology concentrations); and
6. Present two letters of recommendation from appropriate school and/or college officials.