

Admission Criteria

The following information is used to guide our decisions on admission to the program . . .

1. A formula score based on the overall undergraduate GPA, GRE Verbal, and GRE Quantitative scores.
 2. Three letters of reference. We would like to have at least one letter from someone from whom you have taken a college level course.
 3. A personal statement.
- Admission decisions are made after examination of the above information.

The formula score.

A formula score combining overall undergraduate GPA and GRE scores has been found to be significantly related to performance in the program. For that reason it is the main piece of information upon which admission decisions are based.

The formula is $200 * \text{UGPA} + 0.5 * \text{GREV} + 0.5 * \text{GREQ}$

In words, this is 200 times the overall undergraduate GPA plus the average of the GRE Verbal and GRE quantitative scores.

For example, the average UGPA of recently admitted students to the program is about 3.40. The average of the GRE Verbal scores is 490. The average of the GRE quantitative scores is 560. A student whose UGPA and GRE scores are at these average values would have the following formula score:

$$\text{Formula score} = 200 * 3.40 + 0.5 * 490 + 0.5 * 560 = 680 + 245 + 280 = 1205$$

This is an average score. About half the admitted students have formula scores below this value and about half have scores above it.

The probability of admission is lower for applicants with formula scores below 1200. Students whose formula scores are below 1100 are much less likely to be admitted than those with scores closer to 1200. A formula score below 1050 is associated with a very low probability of admission. Low formula scores can sometimes be compensated for by exemplary letters of reference, personal statement, or other evidence that a student will be able to perform well in the program.

A student with formula score above 1200 will have a high probability of being admitted, assuming the letters of reference and personal statement indicate that the applicant will be able to make a positive contribution to the program and ultimately to the discipline..