Policy for GRE Waiver Requests to the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work Masters of Social Work Program

Official GRE General Test scores are required for applicants to the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work. Standardized test scores must be official and reported directly by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). They must be no more than five years old. Standardized test scores that are submitted to this institution are kept on file for only one year. (For more information on the UNC Graduate School’s policy on the GRE requirement, please visit http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/instructions.html#tests.)

To request a waiver of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) requirement, applicants to the UNC Chapel Hill School of Social Work Masters of Social Work (MSW) Program must submit a written request that provides details of their education and work experience; applicants must attach their current resume and official academic transcripts to the waiver request. Please submit your waiver request by December 1st. Applicants who submit a GRE waiver request after this date risk not having adequate time to take the GRE if their request is denied.

Applicants who already hold a research or professional doctorate degree from and accredited institution may request an exemption from the GRE if they meet the required degree credentials. If the degree is conferred by a university outside of the United States, assessment of the foreign degree, including those conferred from institutions participating in the Bologna Accord, is based upon the characteristics of a national system of education, the type of institution attended, its accreditation, and the level of studies completed. (For more information, visit http://gradschool.unc.edu/admissions/instructions.html#transcript.)

In order to request a GRE waiver, applicants must submit a letter requesting the exemption and address how they have been involved in research or relevant professional activities over the past 5 years.

Applicants may not realize the GRE is only one of the indicators used in determining a student's potential for success as a graduate student in the MSW program. Our program is looking for students with a strong commitment to social justice issues and the empowerment of individuals, families and communities; professional and/or volunteer experience in human services; a strong academic record and letters of recommendation that can speak to applicants’ academic and/or professional achievements; potential in the field of social work; and demonstration of a readiness for graduate study.

While scoring a combined score of 1000 in the verbal and quantitative sections of the GRE makes applicants highly competitive in terms of their academic aptitude, please know that the Admissions Committee will review your entire package and assess admissions more broadly, as noted above.