Admissions Committee Report – May 2017

A few years ago, we were asked to identify “quick admit” criteria for the MPH program that would allow the Graduate School to automatically admit student who met the criteria we established.  Along the way, the quick admit initiative was dropped by the Graduate School, and those criteria have become, in essence, our admission criteria. As recently discovered, some gaps were created when this happened and some of our long-standing practices, such as alternative admission procedures, are no longer acknowledged.  This is our current criteria:

1. Completion of a baccalaureate degree from an accredited institution or its equivalent.

2. Evidence of ability to perform at the graduate level:

* cumulative GPA of at least 3.2 on 4.0 scale from a US accredited university; OR
* cumulative GPA of at least 3.0 on a 4.0 scale from a US accredited university and GRE minimums of 145 verbal, 148 quantitative, and 3.5 analytical writing score; OR
* current enrollment in or graduation from an accredited a US medical school or doctoral program.

3. Written personal statement. For details, go to:   <https://wku.edu/publichealth/master_public_health.php>

4. Resume

5. Two letters of academic or professional reference

6. If applicable, test of English as a foreign language (TOEFL) exam with a minimum score of 550 on the written TOEFL, or minimum score of 79 on the internet based TOEFL (iBT), or a minimum of 6.5 on the IELTS.

The issues

* #1 is a requirement by the Graduate School, and thus not needed. I recommend we cut it, especially in light of our recent approval for the JUMP program and not wanting to confuse potential JUMP students.
* #2 was established as our quick admit criteria, but is now being used as our admission criteria by the grad school.  When you read this, you will see that it only applies to students who have completed undergraduate/medical/doctoral degrees from US accredited schools or who are currently enrolled in US accredited medical/doctoral programs.
* # 6 is a requirement by the Graduate school, and thus not needed.
* There is no mention of requiring the GRE for international students, even though in reality we do require it and rely heavily on those scores.
* There is no alternative admission process.

And email was sent out to MPH faculty on April 17th with this information and proposed changes to the criteria. Feedback was incorporated and the following revised admissions criteria is recommended.

Proposed New Criteria

In addition to the criteria set forth by the graduate school, the MPH program requires the following:

1. GRE minimums of 145 verbal, 148 quantitative, and 3.5 analytical writing score

2. Written personal statement. For details, go to: <https://wku.edu/publichealth/master_public_health.php>

3. Resume or Curriculum Vitae

4. Two letters of academic or professional reference

The GRE requirement is waived for students who meet at least one of the following criteria:

* cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.2 on 4.0 scale from a US accredited university;
* current enrollment in an accredited US medical school or doctoral program;
* graduation from a US accredited medical school, masters, or doctoral program; OR
* cumulative undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 on 4.0 scale from a US accredited university and a minimum of three years of professional public health experience.

Students who do not meet the admission criteria listed above may be admitted conditionally into the MPH program.