Graduate Admission Classification

A prospective student who plans to take additional course work beyond the baccalaureate degree must apply to the COGS and be admitted through either Degree Admission or Non-Degree Admission.

Degree Admission

Students who are admitted to the COGS with the expressed intention of following a program leading to a graduate degree are classified as degree-seeking students. When admitted as a degree-seeking student, the applicant will be placed in one of the following categories:

1. Regular - Meets all requirements for unqualified admission and has been recommended by the college, department or program in which he/she proposes to study, and approved by the COGS.

2. Provisional - Does not satisfy the full admission requirements. Applicants granted Provisional admission are required to earn grades of “B” or better in their first nine (9) hours of graduate credit taken at Georgia Southern University under this admission category. Failure to satisfy the conditions of provisional admission will result in exclusion from the degree program. A student admitted in this category will be reclassified to Regular admission when the conditions have been met. A Provisional student may enroll in graduate courses and such courses may be counted in a degree program when the student has been reclassified as a Regular student. Only credit earned in graduate courses at Georgia Southern University may be used to satisfy Provisional admission requirements. A student excluded from a graduate degree program for failure to meet the conditions of provisional admission may not be readmitted to the COGS under non-degree admission. There is no provisional admission to Doctoral programs. Applicants with Provisional admission are not eligible for graduate assistantship positions.

Non-Degree Admission

An applicant may be admitted to the COGS as a non-degree student to earn credit in graduate courses without working toward a degree. Students who are admitted in a non-degree category may later apply to a degree program. Upon the advisor’s recommendation, non-degree graduate courses may be included in the program of study should the student gain reclassification as a Regular student. A student may be admitted to the COGS in one of the following non-degree admission categories:

1. Limited - A student whose file is incomplete because all required application materials have not been received in the Office of Graduate Admissions. Enrollment in the Non-Degree Limited category is limited to a maximum of nine (9) credit hours in graduate courses in any seven contiguous years. A student may count a limited number of credit hours earned under non-degree admission toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the degree Graduate Program Director and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions nor for financial aid.

2. Enrichment - A student who holds an undergraduate or graduate degree and desires to take courses for personal or professional improvement. Enrollment in the Non-degree Enrichment category is limited to 18 credit hours unless otherwise stated by the department. Certain Departments may limit the number of credit hours required for the certificate program, typically 12-24 credit hours, in any seven continuous years unless additional credit hours are approved by the College of Graduate Studies. A student may count up to 18 credit hours earned as part of the certificate program toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the degree Graduate Program Director and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions nor for financial aid.

3. Certificate - A student who holds an undergraduate or graduate degree can pursue a graduate certificate program through the Non-degree Certificate admission. Enrollment in the Non-Degree Certificate category is limited to the number of credit hours required for the certificate program, typically 12-24 credit hours, in any seven continuous years unless additional credit hours are approved by the College of Graduate Studies. A student may count up to 18 credit hours earned as part of the certificate program toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the degree Graduate Program Director and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions nor for financial aid.

4. Teaching/Service/Leadership Certification - A student seeking initial certification as a P-12 educator (teaching, service or leadership certification as defined by the Georgia Professional Standards Commission) may be admitted in this category and enroll in graduate courses required for certification in any seven contiguous years. In addition, in-service teachers enrolling to meet requirements of a local board of education or the Georgia Professional Standards Commission to renew or reinstate a certificate, to certify in a new area, or to obtain an endorsement to an existing certificate may enroll in graduate courses for credit for this particular purpose through this category. Note that admission in this category and completion of a certification program does not guarantee subsequent admission to a graduate degree program; that is a separate process, and different criteria must be met. Enrollment in this category is limited to the number of credit hours required for certification and/or endorsement not to exceed 18 credit hours. A student may count the credit hours earned as part of the certification/endorsement program(s) toward graduate degree program requirements if recommended by the degree Graduate Program Director and approved by the Director of Graduate Studies. (Note that some certification fields require completion of a M.Ed. and/or Ed.S. degree; refer to the admission requirements or Graduate Program Director for information on the specific field of interest.) Students enrolled under this admission category are not eligible for graduate assistant positions.