

**Identification of Doctoral Candidates
Qualifying for School of Medicine Support
(2006-2007)**

Note: This protocol does not apply to applicants for the Epidemiology or Biostatistics Ph.D. programs.

Prospects for an offer of acceptance and financial support are identified through the electronic "Gradapps" system. Departments/programs identify nominees for admission and financial support by checking the "Nominate" box on the information page for each student. Applicants who satisfy the criteria described below are given "priority" status; such status will usually result in an immediate approval of the tender of an offer of financial support early in the recruitment season. **PLEASE DO NOT ASSUME THAT APPROVAL WILL BE GRANTED IN ADVANCE.**

Programs should not "Nominate" or request group review of candidates for whom a full application is not in hand. "Full" in this context means that letters of recommendation and an original transcript will have been received by the Graduate School. Please do not "nominate" individuals who have "inquired" by submitting only an electronic "application" sheet.

Designation of "priority" status is restricted to U.S. citizens, permanent residents and H1B visa holders. The components of applicant assessment are:

- 1. Graduate Record Examination (GRE) Scores (an official, validated score is required meeting criteria described in detail below; the appearance of GRE Scores in Gradapps is the indication that the Scores are in fact as reported by ETS)**
- 2. Grade Point Average (including review of science course performance)**
- 3. Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) as applicable**
- 4. Interview of Applicant**

"Priority" status will be given to candidates satisfying the following criteria:

- 1. GRE scores - (GRE scores must be available for evaluation of candidates as a basis for comparison; substitution of MCAT or DCAT scored will be accepted in lieu of GRE scores only in cases where candidate qualifications are deemed exceptional and a clear**

commitment to doctoral training is evident). A minimum score of 480 on the Verbal Component is a requirement for “priority” status. The combination of any two GRE scores (i.e. $V + Q$, $V + old A$, $Q + old A$) totaling 1200 or all three scores totaling 1700 will be accepted as satisfying the “priority” criterion. For students with the *new* Analytical score the minimum standard for the Analytical score is 4.0/6.0. To satisfy the “priority” criterion scores of $V + Q = 1200$ and $A = 4.5$ or $V + Q = 1250$ and $A = 4.0$ will be used. The “priority” criterion will also be met by the following scores: $V + Q = 1150$, $A = 5.0$ and $V + Q = 1100$, $A = 5.5$.

2. **GPA-** A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.3 overall and 3.0 in math and science courses. (VCU Graduate School minimum for undergraduate GPA is currently 2.7). For applicants whose academic degree is from an institution outside the U.S., the “translated” overall GPA as provided by International Education will apply; the structure of non-U.S. higher education is discipline intensive so that a report of performance in math and science course would not normally be required.
3. **TOEFL scores -** For applicants whose native language is not English, a minimum TOEFL score of 600 (paper)/250 (computer) is required for “priority” status. If such students matriculate in a Ph.D. program, they may also be required to undergo evaluation and testing of their written and verbal English skills by the VCU English language program upon arrival at VCU. Students requiring additional English language training will be required to enroll in one of the modules offered on the VCU campus. Depending on the situation, students could complete this requirement while enrolled in their first-year Ph.D. courses on the MCV campus.
4. Candidates must be interviewed before permission to tender an offer of financial support is granted. In cases where the scheduling of an on-site interview is not possible, a telephone interview may be substituted. (This exemption will not normally apply to U.S. citizens or individuals currently residing in the U.S.).
5. **Research Experience/VCU-School of Medicine.**
Recommendations based on direct experience of student

performance in VCU research laboratories provide first-hand information on the probability of success and will be given additional value in establishing priority. Non-quantitative performance factors are important and may provide a basis for the application of financial support for individuals who do not meet the quantitative “priority” criteria. Two such examples are given below. Generally, nominees who are in these categories will be discussed collectively before an award decision is made.

Non-quantitative factors can compensate to a degree for achievement in quantitative measures which do not meet the quantitative benchmarks described in item 1 above. However, candidates must achieve a score of 1100 on the Verbal and Quantitative sections of the GRE or a score of 1650 on all three components (Verbal + Quantitative + Analytical) for potential award consideration. A minimum score of 4.0 on the new Analytical section will be normally required.

- 6. “Supplemental Support” Candidates. Students who have completed the initial year of graduate training in a School of Medicine advanced degree program and have demonstrated a high level of performance and achievement may be eligible for consideration for support from consolidated (School of Medicine) funds. If granted, such support will cover full tuition and fees for the Fall, Spring and Summer terms of the following year and stipend/salary costs corresponding to one year of support and, if applicable, compensation for the out-of-state tuition differential cost in the years following the second year of study. “High level of performance” will be measured by a minimum GPA of 3.20 and continuing proficiency in both didactic and research program components. Such requests will be entertained beginning in February and MUST be communicated through submission of the “Supplemental” form to the Office of Graduate Education. The awarding of “Supplemental Support” awards is contingent on the availability of funds.**
- 7. “Advanced Standing” Candidates. Students who have been enrolled in an advanced degree program prior to matriculation as a doctoral student at VCU will be reviewed for the degree to which financial support may be appropriate.**

**School of Medicine
Supplemental Support Candidate 2006-07**

Name:

SSN:

Residency Status:

U.S. Citizen: **Yes** **No**

Department:

Current Program:

GRE Scores:

Date/Institution of Graduate Matriculation:

Undergraduate institution:

Undergraduate GPA:

Fall (2006) Semester GPA:

Support Strategy (How will the student be supported when the Supplemental Support – if awarded – is exhausted?)

Comments (provide any additional information that would provide a basis for a decision to support the student):