

Policy Statement: **Guidance on Continuous Enrollment and Graduate English Competency Exam**
Effective: **Fall 2014**
Approved: **Dean Office, College of Liberal Arts**

I. Purpose

The purpose of these guidelines is to direct the attention of applicants to the importance of English proficiency for success in graduate studies in the College of Liberal Arts at Jackson State University; to provide for evaluating the writing proficiency (Graduate English Competency Exam) of all candidates no later than the first semester of enrollment in order to facilitate their work in the departments; and to support the development of English proficiency throughout the period of graduate study.

II. Determining

Preferably before admissions is granted, but no later than the end of the first semester of enrollment in the graduate program, graduate programs shall determine the degree of proficiency in written English of all new admittees. All graduate students should complete the Graduate English Competency Examination in the first semester of enrollment. Specifically, the candidates are expected to be able to use correct grammar, syntax, spelling and punctuation, and to present basic concepts and information in a logically organized and coherent form appropriate for initial study in the major field.

If remedial work is found to be necessary, the student shall be expected to complete prescribed courses in English or other corrective work at a level acceptable to the department. A note should be placed in the student's advising file in the department stating precisely what is required, at what level, and by what date. When the student has demonstrated the acceptable level of proficiency, with or without remedial work, this fact should be noted in the advising file.

III. Continuous Enrollment and/or Earned Master's Degree

Graduate programs in the College of Liberal Arts may admit students who earned a bachelor's degree at Jackson State (through continuous enrollment immediately following undergraduate study) or those who have earned a master's degree from a regionally accredited college/university into graduate study by exempting them from the Graduate English Competency Exam.

If GECE exemptions are awarded to students who hold a bachelor's degree, students must have earned a grade of "B" or higher in English 104, 105, and 205 and successful pass the Undergraduate English Proficiency Exam at Jackson State. The Department of Psychology should establish criteria for assessing writing capabilities of students who hold the bachelor's degree and are admitted to the Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology.