

Graduate Student Guide

Utah Valley University

Graduate Admissions

What type of admissions process does UVU use?

Utah Valley University uses a selective admissions process for admitting students to graduate programs. The University provides educational opportunity free from discrimination in accordance with federal and state law and university core values. (Policy 510, Sections 4.1, 4.2).

Where can I find admissions requirements and application procedures?

Please see the graduate program's website for admission requirements and application procedures. (Policy 510, Section 4.3).

Are there deadlines for graduate admissions?

Applicants must adhere to established admission deadlines and provide all required application materials as stipulated by the university and program. Please see the graduate program's website for program admissions deadlines and required application materials. (Policy 510, Section 4.4).

How will I be notified of admission?

Applicants are notified of admission through an acceptance letter, which includes a UV ID number, residency status, and instructions for pre-enrollment activities, including orientation and advising.

How long is an offer for admissions valid?

Acceptance of graduate admissions offers is valid only for the semester in the offer. Applicants who do not begin attendance during the semester in their admissions offers must reapply and pay the application fees before the applicable semester deadline. At the graduate program's discretion, graduate programs may defer enrollment if students apply for a deferment before the end of the semester for which they were admitted. (Policy 510, Section 5.8).

Are there minimum university admissions requirements for graduate students?

In order to be admitted to the University as graduate students, applicants must meet the following minimum requirements:

1. A bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university, a nationally accredited program, or an international college or university recognized by a

Ministry of Education. International Admissions officers shall determine if applicants with international degrees meet the graduate program's requirement of a recognized bachelor's degree or equivalent.

2. A 3.0 cumulative undergraduate GPA or a 3.0 GPA calculated on the last 60 semester hours (90 quarter hours) of undergraduate work.
3. Any additional or more stringent admissions criteria established by specific graduate programs in addition to the minimum required by the University. (Policy 510, Section 4.5).

Are there additional admission requirements for international students?

Additional admission requirement for international students are in the International Student Admissions section.

Does meeting minimum qualifications guarantee admission to a graduate program?

Meeting minimum admissions criteria does not guarantee admission to a graduate program or to the University as a graduate student. (Policy 510, Section 4.6)

Each program may establish admissions criteria beyond the minimum university requirements. (Policy 510, Section 5.1).

Can exceptions be made for applicants who do not meet all minimum university graduate admissions requirements?

Individual graduate programs shall only admit students who meet the minimum university graduate admissions requirements into their graduate programs unless an exception is approved by the Graduate Council Appeals Committee. Students who are denied admission or do not meet the minimum university requirements shall not be admitted as non-matriculated graduate students.

In extraordinary circumstances when an applicant does not meet all minimum university graduate admissions requirements, the graduate program, at its discretion, may appeal to the Graduate Council Appeals Committee. Under extraordinary circumstances, the Graduate Council Appeals Committee may approve an exception to minimum university graduate admissions requirements. (Policy 510, Sections 4.7 & 4.8).

How can I appeal a graduate admission's decision?

The graduate program's appeals committee shall consider admission appeals to their graduate programs. Graduate applicants appealing denial of admission to a graduate program shall provide supporting materials and information justifying the request to the program director within 30 days of the date of denial communication.

The graduate program director shall present the written appeal to the graduate program's appeals committee for consideration. The decision of the graduate program's appeals committee shall be final, except for appeals for minimum university graduate admissions criteria.

The Graduate Council Appeals Committee shall consider admission appeals from graduate programs for exceptions to minimum university graduate admissions requirements. The Graduate Council Appeals Committee shall consist of a subset of Graduate Council members. The appeal request shall be submitted in writing by the program's admissions committee. The decision of the Graduate Council Appeals Committee shall be final. (Policy 510, Sections 5.3 & 5.4).

Can I take graduate courses without being admitted to a specific graduate program?

Only students admitted into a UVU master's degree or graduate certificate program or admitted as a non-matriculated graduate student shall be permitted to enroll in graduate level courses. (Policy 524, Section 4.2.1).

Non-matriculated graduate students may be admitted by the graduate program directors to take courses in their program if they meet the minimum university graduate admissions criteria. (Policy 510, Section 4.9).

Students admitted as non-matriculated graduate students shall meet course prerequisites unless exceptions are approved by the program director. Non-matriculated students may take a maximum of 12 semester hours as non-matriculated students. (Policy 510, Section 5.5).

Can credits earned as a non-matriculated student be applied to a graduate degree or graduate certificate?

If approved by the program graduate faculty, a maximum of 12 semester hours of non-matriculated credit, taken no more than three years prior to approval, shall be applied toward a graduate degree or graduate certificate. (Policy 510, Section 5.6).

What does it mean to be conditionally admitted into a program?

Graduate programs may conditionally admit students into their programs subject to requirements that the students remedy deficiencies in preparation, such as completing specified courses or completing a bachelor's degree. Such students shall be considered undergraduate students until matriculated into their graduate programs. When conditionally admitted students meet requirements to be considered qualified for admission, they shall be admitted into the graduate program. (Policy 510, Section 4.10).

If the required conditions are completed and supported by an official transcript by the deadline specified by the department, conditionally admitted students shall be fully admitted into their graduate programs. If the conditions are not completed by the deadline, the conditional admission shall be automatically revoked. (Policy 510, Section 5.7).

Can conditionally admitted students take 6000-level courses?

Conditionally admitted students shall not be permitted to take 6000-level courses. (Policy 510, Section 4.10.1).

International Student Admissions

Are there additional minimum university admissions requirements for international graduate students?

In addition to the requirements stated in the Graduate Admissions section, international applicants must meet the following minimum admission requirements:

For international students whose native language is not English, a TOEFL score of 80 iBT 73 (550 pBT) or higher, or an IELTS band score of 6.5 or higher within the past two years. Programs may establish more stringent TOEFL or IELTS minimum score requirements.

International students must also meet all US government requirements for international students.

International graduate students on visas shall not be admitted or enrolled as non-matriculated students. (Policy 510, Section 4.5).

Who determines whether or not international degrees meet the graduate program's requirement of a recognized bachelor's degree or equivalent?

International Admissions officers shall determine if applicants with international degrees meet the graduate program's requirement of a recognized bachelor's degree or equivalent. (Policy 510, Section 4.5).

What additional information do I need to submit for international admissions consideration?

[Admissions](#) may require an affidavit of support or other documents.

Graduate Transfer Credit

What are the requirements for transferring graduate credit?

Graduate credits from another regionally accredited institution or equivalent shall have been completed within four years of the graduate student's matriculation into the graduate program and cannot be older than six years at the time of graduation with a master's degree or graduate certificate from the University. Graduate transfer credits are also subject to grade and grade-point average minimums of the graduate program. (Policy 524, Section 4.5.1).

Can graduate transfer credit replace residency hours?

Approved transfer credits shall not replace required residency hours. (Policy 524, Section 4.5.2).

Will graduate transfer credit be calculated in the student's UVU grade-point average?

Approved transfer credits shall not be calculated into the student's UVU grade-point average. (Policy 524, Section 4.5.3).

How many graduate credit hours must be taken at UVU for degree or certificate programs?

To be eligible to graduate with a master's degree or graduate certificate, a minimum of two-thirds of graduate program credit hours must be completed through the University. Individual graduate programs may require students to complete more than two-thirds of graduate program credit hours in their individual programs at the University. Individual graduate programs may establish more stringent transfer credit criteria. (Policy 524, Section 4.5.4).

Who evaluates graduate transfer credit?

Each school/college with a master's degree or graduate certificate program shall have faculty responsible for evaluating graduate transfer credit and determining whether these credits are appropriate to the master's degree or graduate certificate being sought. The program director shall designate faculty to evaluate the credits.

Designated faculty shall evaluate a student's graduate coursework transcript and inform the student of the awarding of any transfer credit. Following faculty evaluation of official

transcripts, the approving faculty shall inform the Transfer Credit Office of any approved transfer credit. The Transfer Credit Office is responsible for posting transfer credit to the student's record in the university student information system. (Policy 524, Sections 5.4.1-5.4.3).

How do I appeal a graduate transfer credit decision?

A student may appeal the graduate transfer credit decision to the program director in writing. If the student disagrees with the program director's decision, the student may appeal the decision to the dean in writing. The decision of the dean shall be final. (Policy 524, Section 5.4.2).

Tuition and Utah Residency

How is tuition assessed for graduate courses?

For the purposes of tuition assessment and financial aid, all university students are classified as either graduate or undergraduate students and are assessed tuition based on that classification regardless of the course level. Matriculated graduate students are subject to the tuition rate for the graduate program to which they are admitted. Non-matriculated graduate students are subject to the graduate tuition rate of the graduate program that offers the class(es) in which the student is enrolled. (Policy 510, Section 4.11).

Can my tuition and fees change during my graduate program?

Tuition and student fees are established by the Utah State Board of Regents.

Tuition and student fees are subject to change without notice and will be updated as new information is released. Should a tuition increase take place, it is usually applied beginning Summer semester. Historically, tuition increases have been approximately 3%.

We encourage students to take potential tuition changes into consideration when establishing resources for financial aid.

What is the tuition for my graduate program?

Since graduate tuition varies by program, please see your graduate program website for tuition for your specific graduate program.

What do I need to do to be considered a Utah resident?

Students who attend UVU from another state will be required to pay non-resident tuition rates. However, after twelve continuous months, it is possible for students to apply for Utah residency for tuition purposes and significantly decrease the cost of attending UVU.

While the "Twelve Continuous Months Rule" is the most commonly used, there are other ways to qualify for Utah [residency](#).

Financial Aid

Unsubsidized Stafford Loans

Financial aid is available from the federal government to students who qualify. This aid is provided in the form of Unsubsidized Stafford Loans by submitting an application via the [FAFSA – Free Application for Federal Student Aid](#).

Students may apply for this funding online at www.fafsa.gov after they have completed taxes for the year prior to when they will start their program. For example, a student starting the program in Fall 2017 would complete the FAFSA with information from their 2016 tax return.

For additional information, contact the [UVU Financial Aid Department](#) at 801-863-8442.

Graduate Assistantships

Some master programs offer a limited number of graduate assistantships. If you are interested in a graduate assistantship, please contact the program director for more information and for an application.

Additional Options to Help Cover Tuition

There are several resources available online which may provide additional options to help cover the cost of tuition. While UVU does not endorse any particular company, additional funding information may be found at the following link.

[College Affordability Guide](#) - Extensive financial aid guide including federal aid, public and private loans, payment plans, and more.

Class Registration

Where can I get information about registering for courses?

Please see [course registration](#) information.

Student Policies and Expectations

Are graduate students subject to the university's Student Rights and Responsibilities Code?

Graduate students are subject to the Student Rights and Responsibilities Code contained in Policy 541 Student Rights and Responsibilities Code. (Policy 510, Section 4.13). Students are expected to know and uphold their rights and responsibilities as UVU students as stated in the [Student Rights and Responsibilities code](#).

Is UVU a drug-free/alcohol-free campus?

Utah Valley University is a drug-free campus and has a “zero tolerance” alcohol and drug policy. UVU has developed an [alcohol, tobacco, and other drug policy](#) not only in response to the federal drug-free legislation, but also to encourage and sustain an academic environment that promotes the health, safety, and welfare of all members of its community.

Alcoholic beverages, unlawful drugs, and other illegal substances shall not be consumed, used, carried, sold, or unlawfully manufactured on any property or in any building owned, leased, or rented by UVU, or at any activity sponsored by the University.

What are the accommodations for students with disabilities?

Section 504 of the Federal Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 Require that reasonable and appropriate accommodation be made for all individuals with disabilities in accessing an education. To be eligible for such accommodation at UVU, students are responsible to provide relevant medical or psychological evidence of their disabilities. This documentation is kept by the University Accessibility Services Office, and appropriate accommodations should be arranged in coordination and consultation with that office.

Faculty members should provide information to students (preferably via class syllabi) regarding students' rights to access appropriate accommodations. "Students who need accommodations because of a disability may contact the [UVU Accessibility Services Department](#) (ASD), located on the Orem Campus in LC 312. To schedule an appointment or to speak with a counselor, call the ASD office at 801-863-8747.

Can I bring children to class?

Children are not permitted in University classrooms or laboratories unless they are an integral part of instruction. Children should not be left unattended in hallways and/or restrooms

Can I give gifts to faculty or staff?

Faculty and staff are subject to the gifts section of the State Ethics Code, Section 67-16-5 which states: "It is an offense for a public officer or public employee, under circumstances not amounting to a violation of Section 63-56-1001 or 76-8-105, to knowingly receive, accept, take, seek, or solicit, directly or indirectly for himself or another, a gift of substantial value or a substantial economic benefit tantamount to a gift.

Do I need to maintain a minimum cumulative GPA to remain in my graduate program?

Graduate students shall maintain a minimum cumulative 3.0 GPA to remain in their graduate programs. (Policy 510, Section 4.12).

Individual programs may establish higher grade point average requirements. (Policy 524, Section 4.3.5).

What happens if my cumulative GPA falls below 3.0?

Graduate students whose cumulative GPA falls below 3.0 shall be placed on academic probation for the following semester. Students whose GPAs remain below 3.0 after the probation semester shall be suspended from their graduate program and shall not be permitted to register or attend graduate courses. (Policy 510, Section 5.10).

How do I appeal a suspension from a graduate program for failing to maintain a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA?

Graduate students who are suspended from a graduate program for failing to maintain a cumulative 3.0 GPA may appeal in writing to the director of the graduate program within 30 days of the suspension. Supporting materials and information justifying the request should be supplied.

The graduate program director shall present the written appeal to the program graduate faculty for consideration. The decision of the program graduate faculty shall be final. (Policy 510, Section 5.10).

Can I reapply for readmission to a program after I have been suspended?

Graduate students suspended from the University for violation of minimum cumulative GPA requirements or Policy Student Rights and Responsibilities Code who wish to complete their program of study must apply for readmission to the applicable graduate program. The graduate faculty may review the reason for suspension when considering suspended students for readmission. (Policy 510, Section 5.11).

How long do I have to complete my graduate program?

Graduate coursework shall be completed within a period of six years; individual programs may require graduate coursework be completed in fewer than six years. When extenuating circumstances warrant, a student may request an extension to coursework completion time limits. (Policy 524, Section 4.3.3).

How do I request an extension to coursework completion limits?

To request an extension to coursework completion time limits, a student shall submit the request in writing to the program director (or his or her designee) of the applicable school or college. The program director's decision shall be final.

What are the lowest grades that can count towards a graduate degree or certificate?

Credit for courses in which a student earns a grade of C- or lower shall not be applied toward any master's degree or graduate certificate program. Individual graduate programs may establish higher minimum grade requirements for individual courses. (Policy 524, Section 4.3.4).

What is the maximum number of credit hours I can take as a graduate student?

Students enrolled in master's degree or graduate certificate programs shall not be permitted to register for more than 16 credit hours per semester, unless an exception is approved by the Director of Graduate Studies.

To request an exception to semester maximum credit-hour registration limits, a student, upon recommendation by the program director, shall submit the request in writing to the Director of Graduate Studies. (Policy 524, Sections 4.2.2 and 5.2).

What is the mission of Utah Valley University?

Utah Valley University is a teaching institution which provides opportunity, promotes student success, and meets regional educational needs. UVU builds on a foundation of substantive scholarly and creative work to foster engaged learning. The university prepares professionally competent people of integrity who, as lifelong learners and leaders, serve as stewards of a globally interdependent community.

What are UVU's Core Themes?

- **Student Success:** UVU support students in achieving their educational, professional, and personal goals.
- **Inclusive:** UVU provides opportunity for individuals from a wide variety of backgrounds and perspectives and meets regional education needs.
- **Engaged:** UVU engages its communities in mutually beneficial collaboration and emphasizes engaged learning.
- **Serious:** UVU fosters a culture of academic rigor and professional excellence.

Student Resources

Where do I get a map of the campus?

Here is a link to the [Orem Campus Map](#), which you can download.

Where do I get my photo student identification card?

You get your student photo identification card at [Campus Connections](#), which is located in SC 106f.

What parking is available for students?

Parking information and permits can be obtained at [Parking Services](#), which is located at 936 S 400 W, Orem, Utah 84058.

Who can I contact regarding general admissions, registration, tuition payment, financial aid, graduation, and transfer credit questions?

Many of these types of questions can be answered at [One Stop](#), which is located in BA 106.

What student health services are available on campus?

[Student Health Center](#) is dedicated to assisting students in their educational pursuits, by maintaining their health, during their college experience. We are a team of professionals ranging from Doctors, Licensed Nurse Practitioners, a Psychiatric Nurse Practitioner, Medical Assistants, Licensed Personal Counselors, Psychologists, Personal Trainers, as well as other well-qualified staff. The student health center is located at SC 221, and its phone number is 801.863.8876.

How can the Ombuds Office help me resolve problems?

As UVU maintains an [Ombuds Office](#) under the direction of the Associated Students' Organization. The Ombuds is appointed each academic year by a Student Government appointing committee, chaired by the Student Body President.

1. The University hereby recognizes the establishment of the Associated Students of Utah Valley University Ombuds Office. The Ombuds Office will address current issues and personal problems facing UVU student
2. The Ombuds will assist students in finding solutions to issues and problems facing currently enrolled UVU students. These issues and problems may include issues between:
 - a. Students
 - b. Student and Faculty
 - c. Student and Landlord
 - d. Student and University, including policy issues
3. The Ombuds will not engage in any adversarial relationship with any party. A position of neutrality will guide the Ombuds' efforts. The Ombuds will provide all evidence of wrongdoing or evidence of unjust policies and procedures, if any, in an effort to bring about an equitable solution between the parties and in order to set a precedent for similar issues in the future.
4. The Ombuds is appointed and supported by ASUVU and is not an employee of the University. With the approval and financial support of ASUVU, the Ombuds may obtain legal advice, but may not retain legal counsel for any student

What resources are available to help me find internships and employment after graduation?

The [Career Development Center](#) has resources to help you find internships and employment opportunities and to develop your career skills. They can assist in preparing your job search documents.

What type of accessibility services are available to students?

The [Accessibility Services Department](#) is committed to helping students with disabilities receive reasonable accommodations during their college experience at UVU. They provide a variety of services, software and equipment for students with a wide range of disabilities. Visit them to see how they can help you achieve your best!

What resources are available to help me prepare for graduate admission tests such as the GRE, GMAT, MCAT, or LSAT?

The graduate studies website contains information about the graduate admissions tests and test preparation options.

Campus Life

What are my dining options on campus?

UVU has a variety of dining options on campus. Visit [Dining Services](#) for detailed information.

Does UVU offer Meal Plans?

Yes, there are two [Meal Plan](#) options to choose from.

Where can I get information about local bus transportation?

[Campus Connection](#) is where you can get information about bus routes, passes, and prices.

What are my housing options?

[Student housing information](#) is available. UVU does not own or manage any housing or dormitory options on or off campus. The department works with local landlords to provide accurate housing information so students can choose the most suitable housing while attending UVU.

How can I get a membership in the Student Life and Wellness Center?

Graduate students taking at least six credits per semester can get a free [student membership](#).

Does UVU have an intramurals program that I can participate in?

Yes, the [Intramural Office](#) is dedicated to helping UVU Students, Faculty and Staff in finding their own niche on campus. They provide opportunities to participate in a wide variety of individual and team sports at various levels of competition. They strive to provide not only structured and organized programs, but are always looking for new activities to include in their program and accommodate each person's interests and strive to provide activities to fit their interests.

How can I find out what events are happening on campus?

View the [event calendar](#) to see upcoming events. [Campus Connection](#) is also a great resource for students to find out about events and purchase tickets for events.

What about fine arts events such as Music, Dance, and Theatre?

The Music, Dance and Theatre departments in the [School of the Arts](#) offer many performances throughout the year.

Where can I find more information about athletics at UVU?

The [Athletics](#) department is the home of UVU's great sports programs and athletes.

Are there any other areas on campus I should be aware of?

It may be helpful to know that UVU has a Post Office on campus for your convenience. It is located across from Campus Connection.

[Student Life](#) offers additional information about campus resources for which you may be interested.