Background:
The purpose of the GRE is to assess an applicant’s analytical writing, verbal reasoning and quantitative reasoning skills to evaluate his/her likely success in graduate-level academic work. It is not the only metric used to evaluate likely success in the program, but it is an important one. Other metrics include an evaluation of the applicant’s written statement, work history, prior academic work and references.
The current policy states that applicants to the online MPA program must submit GRE scores with their application and that the scores can be no older than five years. Current policy also states that applicants may request a waiver for the GRE application requirement. This document contains guidelines for that waiver request.

Policy:
Applicants with outstanding professional and/or academic credentials may apply for a waiver of the GRE application requirement. This is generally reserved for applicants that have sufficient professional and/or other academic credentials that demonstrate likely success in the online MPA program. These credentials may include:

- At least five years of professional work experience with evidence of promotions, honors/awards or other professional achievements
- Earned doctoral level degree from a U.S.-accredited college or university*
- Earned master’s degree from a U.S.-accredited college or university*

*Degree programs from colleges and universities outside of the U.S. will also be considered, but are subject to additional review. The items listed above are subject to verification and review. Completion of these achievements does not automatically guarantee a GRE waiver.

Process:
Applicants that wish to apply for a waiver of the GRE application requirement should complete the Application for GRE Waiver form and submit the required documentation. The review process generally takes 5-8 business days. Summary of the process:

1. Student completes the Application for GRE Waiver, including required documentation, and submits to their Admissions Advisor.
2. Departmental administrative assistant forwards paperwork to department chair for first stage of approval.
3. If department chair approves, the departmental administrative assistant forwards the paperwork to the associate dean for second stage of approval.
4. If associate dean approves, the departmental administrative assistant forwards the paperwork to the Office of Graduate Studies where the dean of graduate studies makes the final decision.
5. If dean of graduate studies approves, the approval is communicated to the departmental administrative assistant, who notifies the applicant.

Applicants should contact their Admissions Advisor for status updates.