

## GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Salem State welcomes applications to our wide range of graduate programs. Admission decisions are based generally on evidence of achievement in undergraduate studies, performance on standardized tests, strength of recommendations, clarity and professionalism of candidate's written statements, and other materials submitted with the application. Standards are applied rigorously, the purpose being to identify applicants who show promise of benefiting from advanced studies and who are likely to make significant contributions to the graduate community and their chosen profession. Admission standards for graduate programs are generally more rigorous than those for undergraduate degrees.

### Graduate School Admission Requirements for All Graduate Programs

The following general admission requirements apply to all graduate programs. Admission policies stated here are the minimum requirements of the School of Graduate Studies. Individual programs may have requirements that exceed those of the School of Graduate Studies. These additional requirements may include tests or essays, valid teaching certification, personal interviews, specific course preparation, or a specific grade point average. Each program has additional requirements specific to that program. Please visit [saalemstate.edu/graduate](https://saalemstate.edu/graduate) for program specific requirements.

1. A completed [online graduate admissions application form](#) and non-refundable fee made payable to Salem State University.
2. Official transcripts documenting the award of a bachelor's degree with grades of merit in an arts and sciences major or a major appropriate to the degree sought from an accredited college or university. The transcripts must contain the college seal and be in a sealed college envelope.
3. Official transcripts of any graduate courses taken or degrees held.
4. Three 'Reference for Graduate Admission' forms. Some programs require fewer references. Please check the program admission page for the number of references required. Recommender may attach a letter, but must also return the provided form. Appropriate references would include those from professors and academic advisors, and, in some cases, employers, supervisors, and other professional contacts.
5. Satisfactory scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT), taken within the last five years. Those who already hold a master's degree or a higher degree are exempt from this requirement. Graduate Certificates do not require the GRE, MAT or GMAT.
6. Official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or International English Language Testing System (IELTS) scores if English is not your first language. If you have earned an academic degree at an institution in the United States or at an institution where the language of instruction was English, then your application can be reviewed without TOEFL/IELTS scores.
7. A 500- to 1,000-word, double-spaced statement of purpose addressing the following questions: What factors in your personal and professional history have influenced you in the past and now lead you to seek admission to this program at Salem State University? What are your long-term professional goals, and how will this program help you to meet them? Is there any other information that you think would help the admission committee evaluate your application? Some programs have different content requirements. Please check the program admissions page for specific personal statement requirements.
8. Supplemental application materials for each program can be found at [saalemstate.edu/graduate](https://saalemstate.edu/graduate). Please review requirements carefully as they vary for each program.
9. Graduate Coordinators and the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies may waive the required entrance exams if the applicant has proven academic ability in the academic program by receiving a 3.5 GPA in 2 or more courses within the area of study, taken at Salem State University, prior to seeking admissions into the graduate program. This does not supersede pre-existing policies.

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