Smith PhD Fall 2021 Application FAQs

Due to the unprecedented disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic, a number of frequently asked questions have been compiled below. The Smith PhD Program is dedicated in their efforts to make the application process as seamless as possible. If you have additional questions, please email smithphd@umd.edu.

Admissions

Is the GRE/GMAT test score required?

The faculty admissions selection committee is fully aware of the difficulty for some in taking the exam during this unprecedented time. The Smith PhD application allows for self-reported GRE/GMAT scores. If an applicant chooses not to submit test scores, you can still submit the application and leave the test scores section blank. Admissions selection committees will still review the applications thoroughly.

It will remain as an incomplete application by the system. If you leave the test scores section blank, we ask that you email smithphd@umd.edu to identify if 1) you will not be submitting test scores or 2) when you plan to submit test scores.

I self-reported my test scores on the application. Do I need to submit the official score reports now?

When you submit your application, you may include an unofficial copy of your test score report. This document can be accessed through the testing center's webpage.

My GRE/GMAT test scores have expired, but I am unable to take another exam due to the pandemic. Am I ineligible to apply?

The Smith PhD application now allows for self-reported GRE/GMAT scores, which permits applicants to list their scores manually. We will accept an expired GRE score through this self-reported method. If you are admitted to the University of Maryland, official test score reports will be required prior to enrollment. For our institution codes, please visit our website.

Are all areas of specialization admitting students for the Fall 2021 semester?

Each year, the PhD program at the Robert H. Smith School of Business receives about 400 applications from qualified individuals for the limited number of spots available in our program. Our goal is to admit 1-3 students per area of specialization each Fall semester.

Despite the pandemic, this objective has not changed. The number of students admitted to each specific area of specialization will vary, depending on funding, faculty-student ratio, and the quality of the applicant pool.

Smith PhD Fall 2021 Application FAQs

Can I reach out to faculty members to discuss my chances for admission?

> You are welcome to reach out to faculty if you have questions in regards to their research. However, faculty will not review any applications until after the deadline.

Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, will the Fall 2021 semester be online?

> Currently, we do not have confirmed plans as to how the Fall 2021 semester will operate. As we receive updated guidelines from state and national health regulators, we will communicate that to our students at the University level.

Application Submission

Can I receive an application fee waiver?

> The University of Maryland Graduate School regulates the application fee. To check and see if you are eligible for a waiver, you may visit their [Fee Waiver Information and Eligibility](#) webpage. If you are a PhD Project Participant, please contact smithphd@umd.edu.

Can I submit supporting documentation after the application deadline?

> We request applicants to submit all supporting documents by the Fall 2021 application deadline of December 22, 2020 in order to be available for review by the admissions selection committee. Any materials submitted and received after the application deadline are not guaranteed for review.

I have added my recommender email to the application but they have not received an email notification. What should I do?

> If your recommender is having issues receiving the recommendation email request, they can email your recommendation letter to smithphd@umd.edu.

> The Smith PhD Department will manually upload your documents. Both you and your recommender will receive an email confirmation once the documents are received. You will also be able to track through the online application portal once documents are added to your profile.

I am having a technical issue with my application. Who should I contact?

> You may reach out to The Graduate School directly at gradschool@umd.edu. When emailing the department, be sure to include your application ID #, a detailed explanation, as well as a screenshot of the issue you are having.

Financial Aid

Will there be funding available for students who are admitted for the Fall 2021 semester?

Every student admitted to the PhD program is eligible to receive financial support in the form of graduate assistantships. If you have sponsored funding, please indicate this by completing the supplemental form in the application system. Information about the costs of the program and financial support are available on our website.

International Students

What tests does Smith PhD accept to provide evidence of English language proficiency?

We accept TOEFL, IELTS and PRE test scores. For more information regarding submitting official score reports, view the English Language Proficiency Requirements webpage. While the Duolingo exams do not meet the requirements of the UMD Graduate School, they can be used for review by the admissions selection committee. You will need to upload the report as an optional upload (i.e. writing sample, etc.).

What at-home test versions are accepted?

We accept TOEFL, IELTS and PRE test scores - even if they are at-home exams . For more information regarding submitting official score reports, view the English Language Proficiency Requirements webpage. While the Duolingo exams do not meet the requirements of the UMD Graduate School, they can be used for review by the admissions selection committee. You will need to upload the report as an optional upload (i.e. writing sample, etc.).

Who is exempt from a TOEFL/IELTS/PTE exam?

For English proficiency requirements, please visit The Graduate School website.

I already have a degree from my home country. Am I still required to provide evidence of English language proficiency?

The Smith Doctoral Program complies with the policies set by the University of Maryland Graduate School requirements for international students and the evidence of English proficiency. You will be required to submit TOEFL/IELTS/PTE scores if you do not hold a degree from a U.S. institution or from one of the English-speaking countries listed on the The Graduate School website.

Smith PhD Fall 2021 Application FAQs

What if my English language proficiency test results fall below the range for conditional enrollment? Does that automatically disqualify me from admission to the Smith PhD Program?

If this occurs, it does not automatically disqualify you from admissions consideration, but this may make your application less competitive. Your application will still be reviewed for admissions. Should a recommendation for admissions be extended to you, you would have a condition to enrollment. For more information regarding English Language Proficiency Requirements, please visit The Graduate School website.