

# GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Building from its historic liberal arts base, Wheaton College offers graduate programs which aim at the professional education of its students. Regardless of their professional or academic focus, the graduate programs at Wheaton College endorse the importance of a broadly based liberal arts education as the optimal preparation for graduate study at the College.

Students who are selected for admission to Wheaton College Graduate School should evidence a vital Christian experience, personal integrity, social concern, and academic ability. The College seeks students who desire a commitment to the educational outcomes valued by the graduate departments. These values include:

- Commitment to the centrality of the Word of God;
- Preparation in one of the distinct departmental disciplines;
- Commitment to liberal arts study within the Christian evangelical framework;
- Integration of the content (as well as the skills and attitudes) of the chosen discipline with theological foundations;
- Sensitivity to the special needs of the evangelical community.

## Admission Requirements

**Master of Arts** applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university at a level indicative of quality scholarship (minimum 2.75 grade point average on a 4.00 scale).

**Doctoral** applicants must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university at a level indicative of quality scholarship (minimum 3.0 grade point average on a 4.00 scale). Ph.D. applicants should have a minimum 3.5 GPA from master's-level work.

All applicants from approved international colleges and universities are required to have the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor-level degree. Applicants from non-regionally accredited schools may be admitted on a provisional basis, pending completion of possible deficiencies, and will be considered for full admission to a degree program on an individual basis. Each applicant's case will be considered on its own merits. All entering students must have facility in the reading, writing, speaking, and comprehension of English to adequately complete graduate work. Admission exceptions, though rare, may be made on a case by case basis.

Optimal preparation for graduate study at Wheaton will be achieved by the student who has done undergraduate course work in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences and mathematics, and foreign languages. This type of course work forms the core of a liberal arts education. These liberal arts studies are recommended for all entering graduate students. The theological studies courses required of all students presuppose some basic exposure to the humanities and sciences.

Each of the academic departments of Wheaton College Graduate School maintains its own requirements for admission beyond the completion of a U.S. bachelor's equivalent (see requirements for academic departments). In most cases, these must be met by formal educational experiences.

## Admission Procedure

Applicants are able to submit their application directly online at <https://www.wheaton.edu/graduate-school/admissions/>

### Items You Submit Online

- General Application Form
- Application Fee (by credit card): \$30.00 for M.A.; \$50.00 for Doctoral
- Recommendations
- Personal Essays
- Résumé (overview of volunteer or work experiences)
- Research Paper (doctoral applicants, M.A. Old Testament Archaeology applicants, and Accelerated applicants)
- Personal interview with faculty (doctoral applicants and CMHC and MFT applicants)

### Items You Request to Be Submitted to Our Office

In order for your application to be evaluated in a prompt and efficient manner, please request that the following items be submitted to:

Graduate Admissions Office  
Wheaton College  
501 College Ave.  
Wheaton, IL 60187

- Transcript(s) - Transcripts must be sealed in an official university envelope issued by the institution. Certified E-Transcripts are preferred.
- Test scores - Test scores are sent to us directly from the testing organization. However, you may include a photocopy or self-report of your scores with your application for evaluation purposes. The official report is required before enrollment (Wheaton College code is 1905).

The following materials are required for **Master of Arts** applicants:

- Official transcripts of *all* academic credit since high school graduation.
- Recommendations from an academic advisor or college professor, a pastor or church leader, an employer or professional acquaintance. Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy applicants must also submit a recommendation from a mental health professional.
- A résumé that provides an overview of volunteer or paid work experiences.
- Psychology, Biblical Exegesis, Old Testament Archaeology, and Theology applicants must submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test. All other M.A. applicants can submit scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test or the Miller Analogies Test (MAT). Please note some M.A. programs may waive test scores based on professional or ministry experience and/or the student's academic profile. Information concerning the GRE examination may be found at [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) (<http://www.ets.org>) or toll-free 1.800.GRE.CALL. Information concerning the MAT can be found at <http://www.milleranalogies.com>.
- Old Testament Archaeology applicants must submit a research paper.
- Signed Statement of Faith and Community Covenant.
- \$30.00 application fee.
- Personal interviews for Clinical Mental Health Counseling and Marriage and Family Therapy applicants.

- Applicants who are granted admission must confirm their acceptance by submitting a \$100 advance deposit (see section on Advance Deposit).

The following materials are required for **Doctoral** applicants:

- Official transcripts of *all* academic credit since high school graduation.
- Ph.D. applicants must submit three academic recommendations and one church leader recommendation. Psy.D. applicants must submit recommendations from an academic advisor or college professor, a pastor or church leader, and an employer or professional acquaintance.
- Applicants must submit a sample of their academic writing, e.g., a copy of a class research paper. (Ph.D. minimum 20 pages; Psy.D. minimum 10 pages).
- An employment résumé or curriculum vitae.
- Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test. Information concerning this examination may be obtained by requesting the GRE Bulletin from the Educational Testing Service, Box 955, Princeton, NJ 08540. Website: [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) (http://www.ets.org) or toll-free 1.800.GRE.CALL.
- Signed Statement of Faith and Community Covenant.
- Essays (Ph.D. must include mentor choice and dissertation topic).
- \$50.00 application fee.
- Personal interviews for all doctoral application finalists.
- Applicants who are granted admission must confirm their acceptance by submitting an advance deposit (see section on Advance Deposit).

### Application Deadlines

Program	Program, Classification, or Course	Fall	Spring	Summer
<b>International Students</b>	All M.A. programs	Jan 1		
	Ph.D. in Biblical & Theological Studies	Jan 1		
<b>Doctoral Programs</b>	Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology	Dec 15		
	Old Testament Archaeology	Jan 15		
<b>Master's Programs</b>	Biblical Exegesis	Feb 1		
	Biblical Studies part-time cohort	Jun. 1		
	Christian Formation & Ministry	Mar 15		
	Outdoor & Adventure Leadership	Mar 15		
	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Mar 1		

	Marriage & Family Therapy	Mar 1		
	Evangelism & Leadership	Mar 15	Nov 1	Mar 15
	Ministry & Leadership	Mar 15	Nov 1	Mar 15
	History of Christianity	Mar 1		
	Theology	Mar 1		
	Intercultural Studies	Mar 15	Nov 1	Mar 15
	TESOL & Intercultural Studies	Mar 15	Nov 1	Mar 15
	Teaching	Apr 1		
	Missional Church Movements			Mar 15
	Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership			Mar 15
<b>Certificate Programs</b>	TESOL	Mar 15	Nov 1	Mar 15
	TEFL	Jun 1		
	Global Engagement	Mar 15	Oct 1	
	Certification in Cross-Cultural Ministry	Mar 15		
<b>Special Students</b>	Special Student	Aug 15	Dec 1	May 1
	Special Student for Evangelism & Leadership courses	<a href="http://www.wheaton.edu/Graduate-School/Admissions/How-to-Apply/Application-Deadlines">http://www.wheaton.edu/Graduate-School/Admissions/How-to-Apply/Application-Deadlines</a>		
<b>Audit</b>	Any course	First day of class each term	First day of class each term	First day of class each term

### Advance Deposit

A nonrefundable advance deposit of \$100 must be submitted with the M.A. applicant's reply accepting admission to the Graduate School. **The advance deposits for doctoral programs are \$200 for Psy.D. applicants, and \$500 for Ph.D. applicants.** This will be credited toward tuition when the student enrolls.

### Classification of Students

**Regular students** include all applicants who are admitted to the Graduate School in a degree or certificate program.

**Special students** are applicants who are not seeking a degree or who have missed the degree-student **application** deadline. *Special students*

*may apply only 12 credit hours toward a degree* if they apply later as degree-seeking students. The Graduate School is not obligated in any way to accept a special student for degree status.

**Modular Students** are students enrolled in a degree or certificate program composed entirely of intensive and online courses. Intensive courses consist of compressed “in-seat” class time (typically one or two weeks) with significant pre- and post class academic work.

**Auditors** are students attending graduate classes for personal enrichment and not for academic credit. Auditors must file the appropriate application form with the Registrar’s Office, register as an auditor, and pay the audit fee. Audited courses may be included on a student’s academic transcript if attendance and instructor’s expectations are met (see transcript audit application).

### International Students

International students of high scholastic standing are invited to apply for admission to the Graduate School. Applications (except for Canadians) will be **accepted for the fall semester only (other desired entry terms will be evaluated on a case by case basis). The deadline for the formal application is January 1.**

The following requirements apply to all international students and to permanent residents of the U.S. whose native language is not English.

Applicants may choose to take one of the following language proficiency tests: the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) paper based test, the TOEFL internet based test, or the International English Language Testing System (IELTS) The tests and our minimum requirements are outlined below. **Scores must be no more than two years old.**

Language Proficiency Test	All Other Master of Arts Applicants	M.A. TESOL, Teaching, MFT and Doctoral Applicants
TOEFL – Paper Based Test	550	600
TOEFL – Internet Based Test	Minimum score of 18 points for each of 4 sections Total cumulative minimum of 80	Minimum score of 20 points for each of 4 sections Total cumulative minimum of 100
IELTS	Minimum score of 6.5	Minimum score of 7.0

**Exceptions to the required test scores may be made in the following instances:**

- The student is a citizen of Great Britain, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or the British West Indies, and is a native speaker of English (GRE or MAT scores may be required).
- The student has studied in one of the countries mentioned above, or in the U.S., within the past two years and has a good academic record at the school attended (GRE or MAT scores may be required).
- The student has a recent TOEFL score (less than two years old). In this case the student will not be required to retake the TOEFL. Special arrangements may be made to take a written exam.

For information on the TOEFL, write to: Test of English as a Foreign Language, CN 6151, Princeton, NJ 08541-6151, USA. (Website: [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org) (<http://www.ets.org>)).

In order for the applicant to receive the Certificate of Eligibility (Immigration form I-20) required of all international students entering the United States, **the following conditions must be met:**

- The applicant must be formally admitted to a graduate degree program.
- Applicants which attended international schools need to submit a transcript evaluation completed from one of the following international credential evaluation agencies: WES ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)) or ECE ([www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org) (<http://www.ece.org>)). **Official transcripts from all post-secondary level schools attended, outside the U.S., from which academic credit was received.** The report must include **general equivalency, course by course evaluation, and grade point average (GPA).**
- The applicant must submit a Certification of Finance form and payment for tuition, room, board, and health insurance for their first semester, by June 1 *prior to enrollment* in order for a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20) to be issued. If the student can verify s/he will not use college housing, and/or meal plan, that amount does not need to be sent.
- On the Certification of Finance form applicants must be able to demonstrate sufficient financial support to cover the total projected costs of education for the entire time of enrollment, for both billed and personal costs, and for family, if applicable. The student must also provide signed certification from the bank or sponsor(s) verifying the accessibility of funds. Strict government regulations require that Wheaton College verify the financial resources of international applicants.
- An international student will not be allowed to enroll for the next semester and continue graduate study if the student’s tuition (also, housing and/or meals if applicable) is not paid by the first day of classes. Failure to make payment will result in immediate withdrawal from Graduate School. International students may also participate in the Wheaton installment plan.

### Accelerated M.A. Program

Wheaton College offers an Accelerated M.A. in the following programs: Old Testament Archaeology, Biblical Exegesis, History of Christianity, Outdoor & Adventure Leadership, Theology, Christian Formation and Ministry, Teaching (Elementary and Secondary License), Evangelism and Leadership, Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership, Intercultural Studies, and TESOL & Intercultural Studies. Wheaton College undergraduate students can earn a B.A. and M.A. in five years by taking graduate credit courses during their senior year. An application should be submitted to the Graduate Admissions Office prior to earning 90 undergraduate credit hours. After acceptance, students will be able to register for graduate-level courses after completing 90 undergraduate credit hours. Up to eight hours of graduate credit may be taken each semester (16-hour maximum taken as an undergraduate). The student will be given a graduate advisor, but will retain the undergraduate advisor and be classified as an undergraduate until the bachelor’s degree is earned. Earning a graduate degree by this method have a financial advantage. Courses taken toward this accelerated master’s degree program **cannot** be counted toward the student’s bachelor’s degree requirements.

### Readmission

Regular students who have not registered for one semester and modular students who have not registered for two semesters and a summer, consecutively, must submit a “**Re-enrollment Application**” to the Graduate Admissions Office. Students seeking re-enrollment will need to submit transcripts for work undertaken elsewhere in the interim, update medical

and contact information, and may be required to submit an Action Plan. The Graduate Admissions Director and graduate program faculty will decide whether to approve, defer or deny re-enrollment. A student readmitted after the program limit (M.A.—five years; Ph.D.—six years; Psy.D.—seven years) must fulfill graduation requirements for the catalog of the year of readmission. Credits earned more than eight years prior to readmission may not be allowed to fulfill degree requirements except with department approval.

Doctoral students with an approved Leave of Absence need only to submit an **“Enrollment Application” to the Graduate Admissions Office** in order to initiate the process to resume their active status. The primary purpose of this form is to update information needed by support departments.