

# GRADUATE ADMISSIONS

Building from its historic liberal arts base, Wheaton College offers graduate programs that support the professional education of its students. Regardless of their professional, vocational, 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 demonstrate evidence of 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 programs. These values include:

- Commitment to the centrality of the Word of God;
- Preparation in one of the distinct academic 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

Doctoral Clinical Psychology (Psy.D. and Ph.D.) and M.A. applicants in any discipline and must have a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college or university at a level indicative of quality scholarship.

Applicants to master's degree programs in the Litfin Divinity School may have a bachelor's degree from a college or university accredited by the Association for Biblical Higher Education (ABHE) or Association of Theological Schools (ATS) if the applicant meets all other admissions requirements.

Each program of Wheaton College Graduate School maintains its own requirements for admission (see Graduate Application Deadlines and Admission Requirements (<https://www.wheaton.edu/graduate-school/admissions/admission-requirements/>) for program-specific details).

Applicants from non-regionally accredited schools, or those that do not meet the academic requirements, may be provisionally admitted or admitted on a case-by-case basis. Each applicant's case will be considered on its own merits.

All applicants from approved international colleges and universities are required to have the equivalent of the required U.S. bachelor's and or master's degree(s). All entering students must have a 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 coursework in the humanities, social sciences, natural sciences, mathematics, and foreign languages. This type of coursework 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.

## Admission Procedure

Applications are directly submitted online at <https://go.wheaton.edu/portal/applytoday> (<https://go.wheaton.edu/portal/applytoday/>)

### Items You Submit Online

- Application Form
- Application Fee: \$30.00 for M.A.; \$50.00 for Doctoral
- Recommendations
- Personal Essays
- Résumé (overview of volunteer and/or work experiences)
- Research Paper (for select programs)
- Signed Statement of Faith (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/statement-of-faith-and-educational-purpose/>) and Community Covenant (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/community-covenant/>)
- Additional items may be required by the degree program of choice and will be outlined on the individual program website

## Transcripts and Test Scores

In order for your application to be evaluated in an efficient manner, please request that the following items be submitted promptly.

- Transcript: Certified E-Transcripts are preferred and must be sent directly from the e-transcript provider or service. Paper transcripts must be sealed in an official university envelope issued by the institution
 

Mail them to:  
Graduate Admissions Department  
501 College Ave.  
Wheaton, IL 60187
- Official transcripts from all colleges where a degree was earned or is currently being earned
  - In the case where 25% (B.A. example: 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours) or more of the student's earned degree was comprised of transfer credits from another institution, the student must also submit an official transcript for the institution from which the credit originated.
  - Additional transcripts may be required to meet program requirements or prerequisites.
  - Students seeking a post-master's certificate are only required to submit a transcript from one qualifying post-baccalaureate degree.
- Test scores: The testing organization sends them directly to us. However, you may include a photocopy or self-report of your scores with your application for evaluation purposes. The official score report is required before enrollment (Wheaton College institution code is 1905).

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

- Official transcripts from all institutions where a degree was earned or is currently being earned
  - In the case where 25% (B.A. example: 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours) or more of the student's earned degree was comprised of transfer credits from another institution, the student must also submit an official transcript for the institution from which the credit originated.
- Additional transcripts may be required to meet program requirements or prerequisites.
- Academic, pastoral, and professional recommendation forms. 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 and/or paid work experiences
- Signed Statement of Faith (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/statement-of-faith-and-educational-purpose/>) and Community Covenant (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/community-covenant/>)
- \$30.00 application fee
- Additional items may be required by the degree program of choice and will be outlined on the individual program website

## The following materials are required for Post-Master's Certificate applicants:

- Official transcripts from one qualifying post-baccalaureate degree
- Professional recommendation form
- A résumé that provides an overview of volunteer and/or paid work experiences
- Signed Statement of Faith (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/statement-of-faith-and-educational-purpose/>) and Community Covenant (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/community-covenant/>)
- \$30.00 application fee
- Additional items may be required by the certificate program of choice and will be outlined on the individual program website

## The following materials are required for Doctoral applicants:

- Official transcripts from all institutions where a degree was earned or is currently being earned
  - In the case where 25% (B.A. example: 30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours) or more of a student's earned degree was comprised of transfer credits from another institution, the student must also submit an official transcript for the institution from which the credit originated.

- Additional transcripts may be required to meet program requirements or prerequisites.

### • Recommendations

- Ph.D. in Biblical and Theological Studies applicants must submit four recommendations: three academic and one pastoral.
- Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology applicants must submit three recommendations: one academic, one pastoral, and one professional.
- D.Min. applicants must submit three recommendations: one pastoral, one academic, and one recommendation from a ministry peer or ministry supervisor.

- Applicants must submit a sample of their academic writing, e.g., a copy of a class research paper (see application for details)

- Ph.D. in Biblical and Theological Studies minimum 20 pages in Turabian or SBL style
- Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology and Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology minimum 10 pages in APA style
- D.Min.. 8-10 page research paper in Turabian author-date style

- A résumé or curriculum vitae

- Scores from the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test. <https://www.wheaton.edu/graduate-school/admissions/admission-requirements/> for details (not required for D.Min..)

- Signed Statement of Faith (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/statement-of-faith-and-educational-purpose/>) and Community Covenant (<https://www.wheaton.edu/about-wheaton/community-covenant/>)

- Essays (see the application for details):

- Ph.D. in Biblical and Theological Studies must include mentor choice and dissertation topic
- Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology and Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology must include research lab choice
- D.Min., see the application for details

- \$50.00 application fee.

- Personal interviews for all doctoral application finalists with the exception of D.Min..

- Additional items may be required by the degree program of choice and will be outlined on the individual program website.

## Application Deadlines

Program	Program, Classification, or Course	Fall	Spring	Summer
International Students	All M.A. programs	Jan 1		

<b>Doctoral Programs</b>	Ph.D. in Biblical & Theological Studies	Jan 1		
	Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology			Dec. 15
	Psy.D. Clinical Psychology	Dec. 15		
	D.Min. Biblical Exegesis	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
<b>Master's Programs</b>	Biblical and Theological Studies	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Clinical Mental Health Counseling	Feb 1		
	Evangelism and Leadership	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Higher Education and Student Development	Rolling		
	History of Christianity	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Humanitarian and Disaster Leadership			Rolling
	Leadership	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Marriage and Family Therapy	Feb 1		
	Ministry Leadership	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Outdoor and Adventure Leadership	Rolling		
	Teaching	June 15		
	TESOL and Intercultural Studies	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Theology	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling

**Accelerated M.A.** For current Wheaton undergraduate and for select programs only. See <https://www.wheaton.edu/graduate-school/admissions/accelerated-ma/> for details.

<b>Certificate Programs</b>	Biblical and Theological Studies	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Cross-Cultural Studies	Rolling		
	Missional Church	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Organizational Leadership			Rolling
	TEFL	Jun 1		
	TESOL	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
	Trauma Certificate	Rolling		Rolling
<b>Non-Degree Seeking Student</b>	Non-Degree Seeking Student	Rolling	Rolling	Rolling
<b>Audit</b>	Any course with faculty approval	First day of class each term	First day of class each term	First day of class each term

Many M.A. programs have early admission deadline opportunities. Please see their requirements pages (<https://www.wheaton.edu/graduate-school/admissions/admission-requirements/>) for details.

## Advance Deposit

Domestic Students: **A nonrefundable advance deposit of \$100 must be submitted with the M.A. applicant's reply accepting admission to the Graduate School.** The advance deposit for doctoral programs is \$200 for Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology, Ph.D. in Clinical Psychology, and D.Min... applicants, and \$500 for Ph.D. in Biblical and Theological Studies applicants. **Deposits will be credited toward tuition when the student enrolls and confirms student enrollment.**

International Students: Must meet Certification of Finance Requirements. Please contact your International Graduate Admissions Counselor for further details of these requirements.

## 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 for all programs is January 1, except for the Doctoral in Clinical Psychology program, which is December 15th.

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) or DuoLingo. 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, 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
DuoLingo English Test	Minimum score 105	Minimum scores 120

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

- The student is a citizen of the United Kingdom, Ireland, Australia, Canada, New Zealand, or the Commonwealth Caribbean, and is a native speaker of English (GRE 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 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.
- The applicant must formally indicate their non-U.S. citizenship status on their submitted application.
- Wheaton College requires those who attended international schools to submit an international transcript evaluation completed by an international credential evaluation service who is a current member of the National Association of Credential Evaluation

Services (NACES; <https://www.naces.org/>). We recommend World Education Services ([www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org) (<https://www.wes.org/>)), SpanTran (<https://spanside.my.salesforce-sites.com/SpantranApplication/?Id=ddd53bc-4c8c-4cdc-acac-ddce4ed55a83>) or Educational Credential Evaluators ([www.ece.org](http://www.ece.org) (<https://www.ece.org/>)). **Official transcripts are required for all post-secondary level schools attended outside the U.S. from which a degree was earned, with the exception of post-master's certificate programs (see the policy above). In the case where 25% (30 semester hours or 45 quarter hours) or more of a student's earned degree was comprised of transfer credits from another institution, the student must also submit an official transcript for the institutions from which the credit originated for evaluation through WES, ECE, or SpanTran. The report must include general equivalency, course-by-course evaluation, and grade point average (GPA).**

- On-campus Fall entry applicants must submit a Certification of Finance form and pay the required deposit, by June 1 *prior to enrollment* in order for a Certificate of Eligibility (Form I-20) to be issued. All additional applicant types will be provided Confirmation of Finance guidance on a case-by-cases basis.
- 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 first academic year (9 months) 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.
- The advanced deposit for international students to study in the full-time on-campus format is \$8,000 and the flex/hybrid format is \$4,000.
- 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: Biblical Exegesis, History of Christianity, Outdoor & Adventure Leadership, Theology, Higher Education and Student Development, Teaching (Elementary and Secondary License), Evangelism and Leadership, Leadership, Ministry Leadership, Humanitarian & Disaster Leadership, and TESOL & Intercultural Studies. Wheaton College undergraduate students can earn a B.A. and M.A. by taking graduate credit courses during their undergraduate semesters. Current Wheaton students may apply for an Accelerated M.A. after earning 45 undergraduate credit hours. Upon acceptance, students will be able to register for graduate-level courses after completing 60 undergraduate credit hours. Up to 8 hours of graduate credit may be taken each undergraduate semester while no more than a total of 16 graduate credits can be earned before completing an undergraduate degree. 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 may have a financial advantage. Students should consult with the Academic Advising Office

and Student Financial Services to understand CPOS regulations for financial aid.

**Auditors** are students attending graduate classes for personal enrichment and not for academic credit.

## Re-enroll

Students who have not enrolled for up to two semesters (excluding summer) can re-enroll into their graduate program by contacting the Registrar's Office.

Students who have not registered for more than 2 consecutive semesters (excluding summer), must submit a "**Re-enroll Application**" to the Graduate Admissions Office.

The "Re-enroll Application" includes: transcripts for coursework earned elsewhere in the interim and updated medical and contact information. Students may be required to submit an Action Plan pending review. Students who were academically dismissed will be required to supply an action plan that addresses the factors that contributed to their dismissal and indicates their specific plans for future success. The Graduate Admissions office and graduate program faculty will conduct a student audit, in conjunction with the Office of the Registrar, Graduate Student Life, and Student Financial Services, and decide whether to approve, defer, or deny re-enrollment pending the circumstances surrounding the student's request. Additional documents may be required as requested by the College.

A student readmitted after the program limit (M.A.—five years; Ph.D. Biblical & Theological Studies—six years; Ph.D. and Psy.D. Clinical Psychology and D.Min.—seven years;) must fulfill graduation requirements for the catalog of the year of readmission. With departmental approval, up to 25% of the credits required for the current degree program may be fulfilled with credits earned more than eight years prior to readmission.

## Deferred Enrollment

Accepted Applicants who are interested in deferring enrollment should contact their Graduate Admissions Counselor to learn about the process specific to their academic program. Students can defer enrollment for up to an entire academic year for any program except: Ph.D. and Psy.D. in Clinical Psychology, M.A. in Clinical Mental Health Counseling, and M.A. Marriage & Family Therapy, which require approval. For the second year of deferral, students will need to re-apply with the short application form. For the third-year of deferral and beyond, a new application is required. An exception may be made for international students with circumstances beyond their control such as F1 visa denials. Scholarships do not follow the student if they submit a deferral.

## Classification of Students

**Degree Seeking Students** include all applicants who are admitted to the Graduate School in a degree or certificate program.

**Non-Degree Seeking Students** are applicants who are not seeking a degree or who have missed the degree-student **application** deadline but still wish to receive credit. Non-degree seeking 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 non-degree seeking student for degree status.

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