Special Graduate Student Admission

In order to be considered as a special graduate (non-degree-seeking) to a graduate program, an applicant must submit a graduate application along with a nonrefundable application fee and meet the following criteria:

1. Earned a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited college or university in the United States or have proof of equivalent training at a foreign institution.
2. A minimum grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a 4.0 scale) in the last 30 semester credit hours for special graduate.
3. Be in good standing at the last institution attended.
4. Unless otherwise specified, an official GRE or GMAT score must be submitted.
5. An applicant from a country where the first language is not English, unless a bachelor's degree or higher was earned in an English-speaking country, must have a minimum score of 550 on paper-based Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), 79 on internet-based TOEFL, or 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS).
6. Meet additional admission criteria set forth by the graduate program of interest (see Graduate Program Requirements and Course Descriptions).

Special graduate students are advised that:

1. In order to be eligible to enroll in a master's-level course, students must meet the necessary prerequisites, space must be available, and students must obtain the approval of the course instructor. Students who wish to take a graduate course in a discipline other than that for which they have been authorized upon admission must obtain the approval of the authorized representative (as defined above) of the discipline offering the course.
2. Students who wish to enroll in an undergraduate-level course must obtain prior approval by completing the Permission For Enrolling in Undergraduate Courses While a Graduate Student Form.
3. A maximum of 12 semester credit hours earned as a special graduate student may be applied toward a graduate degree, and then only when the student has been admitted as a graduate degree-seeking student and the credits earned for these courses have been evaluated and approved for this purpose by the appropriate Graduate Program Committee.
4. When teacher certification is involved, approval of the director of the College of Education and Human Development Advising and Certification Center is required before the student enrolls to ensure that credit earned as a special graduate student can be applied to a graduate-level teacher certification program.
5. To continue as a special graduate student in a subsequent semester, the student must meet the standards required to remain at UTSA as indicated in the section on Academic Standing.

Denial of Admission as a Special Graduate Student

An applicant who is denied admission as both a graduate degree-seeking student and a special graduate student may be eligible for admission as a special undergraduate student, if admission requirements for that classification have been met. The applicant will need to submit an undergraduate application to be considered (see “Special Undergraduate Student Admission” in Admission – Undergraduate).

Students holding bachelor’s degrees who are admitted as special undergraduate students may enroll in undergraduate courses only. If they wish to take courses at the graduate level, they must obtain permission from the course instructor and the department chair on the form provided for this purpose. Students may not have active applications at the graduate and undergraduate levels for the same term and year.