

# Ponce Health Sciences University

## ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS WAIVER COVID-19 TEMPORARY POLICY



PHSU

PONCE HEALTH SCIENCES UNIVERSITY

Tamdiu Discendum Est. Quamdiu Vivas

**Policy Number:**  
SBBS-2020FA-  
2021FA-  
2022FA-01-31  
Rev

**Date Issued:**  
01/31/2022

**Next Review Date:**  
Temporary Policy until July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022

<b>Applies to:</b> New Entrance Candidates with no Entrance Exam Available for AY 2020- 2021 for SBBS Rev AY 2021- 2022-2023	<b>Owner:</b> SBBS Admissions Committee Admissions Office Vice President of Student Affairs	<b>Primary Contact:</b> Admissions Office
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**Related Policies:** Academic Programs Admissions Committee Policies and Procedures

**Supporting Forms:** Sample Notification of Exam Waiver and Letter of Recommendation Requirement Adjustment



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# ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS WAIVER- A COVID-19 TEMPORARY POLICY

## Introduction:

On June 2, 2020, the SBBS (School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences) Admissions Committee received the PHSU Temporary Policy for Conditional Admissions COVID-19, approved by the Board of Directors effective on May 7, 2020. In view of this announcement, the SBBS Admissions Committee recognizes that due to the COVID-19 pandemic, some candidates might not be able to fulfill with all the criteria for admissions into the program.

## I Legal basis:

This provision is established for faithful compliance with the regulations and information provided to any State/Local Licensing Agency, any applicable Regional Accrediting Agency and the Federal Department of Education.

This policy is approved by the SBBS Admissions Committee and is effective as of **Fall 2020 and extended until the fall 2021 period cohort**. This revision extends the effectiveness of the policy to the **Fall 2022 cohort**.

## II Scope:

The Admissions Committee of the SBBS Program establishes that the GRE (with a minimum score of 279) of no more than five years old should be submitted as part of the admissions criteria. In view of the cancellation of the test and lack of availability for administration of these standardized test required in the admissions process, an amendment to the admissions requisites is recommended.

The Admissions Committee of the SBBS Program supports the recommendation to waive the standardized test component of the GRE in the admissions process for Fall 2020. This would be temporary and effective for admissions to the Fall 2020, Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 cohorts completed on or before until July 30, 2022.

This policy aims to allow a student to be admitted as a regular student to the university with a waiver for the Admissions Entrance Exam. A student with all other admissions requirements completed and missing an Entrance Exam will be categorized as compliant and will be admitted as a regular student to the University.

For clarification, this provision is not applicable for all prospective students, only for those who, applied for the Fall 2020, Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 Cohort and which admission is processed on or before July 30th, 2022.

Also, the Admissions Committee of the SBBS Program establishes an admission requirement of three (3) letters of recommendation. The Covid-19 Pandemic has created certain access limitations for students to acquire letters of recommendation, taking this in consideration the Committee approved a temporary adjustment to the requirements as follows:

- Certificate Programs (Neuroscience of Learning and Couples & Family Therapy) and the Master in Science in School Psychology program (MSSP)
  - From two (2) to one (1) letters require for committee evaluation and compliance with the student academic file
- Doctoral Programs in Clinical Psychology (PhD Psy and PSYD)
  - From three (3) to two (2) letters require for committee evaluation and compliance with the student academic file.

### III Justification:

The institution recognizes that it receives candidates for admission with the potential to pursue one of SBBS's degree offerings; but these students have difficulty presenting the documentation for the Admissions Entrance Exams (GRE or alternative standardized exam) to meet all admission requirements at the beginning of the semester. It is for this reason, and by exception, that the candidate is recommended to receive a Waiver for the Entrance Exam, as long as the admission is processed on or before July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

PHSU also recognizes the limitations in access that prospect students may have experienced due to the Covid-19 pandemic. For this reason, an adjustment of the amount of letters of recommendations required was approved, changing the requirement to two recommendation letters, as long as the admission is processed on or before July 30<sup>th</sup>, 2022.

### IV Policy:

School of Behavioral and Brain Sciences Program of PHSU supports the recommendation of the SBBS Admissions Committee to waive the standardized test component in the admissions process and adjusted the requirement for two (2) recommendation letters for Fall 2020, Fall 2021 and Fall 2022 application and admission periods. For the next admission process 2023, once the COVID-19 Pandemic Emergency is over and standardized testing resumes, all students admitted for Fall 2023 will be required to take the standardized test.

*This policy is temporary and effective until July 30, 2022.*

### V Amendments:

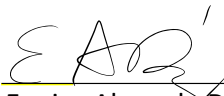
This policy may be amended by the SBBS Admissions Committee.

## VI Repeal and Validity:

This policy does not repeal the provisions established by the University admissions policy, but rather offers specific provisions for candidates who qualify as regular admission once the waiver and adjustments in requirements are conceded.

This policy will be effective for the Fall 2020, Fall 2021, and Fall 2022 terms.

## VII Approval:



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Eunice Alvarado Díaz, Psy.D.  
Chair of the SBBS Admissions Committee

02/04/2022

Date