

# GRADUATE ADMISSION AND REGISTRATION

Persons holding the baccalaureate degree and wishing to take graduate-level courses at the University may do so through admission to the Graduate School.

## GRADUATE SCHOOL

Nasser H. Zawia, *Interim Dean*  
Harold D. Bibb, *Associate Dean*  
Keith Killingbeck, *Associate Dean*

### Admission

Students may be admitted to URI's Graduate School as degree candidates or they may pursue postbaccalaureate work in nonmatriculating status (see next page). Admission to the Graduate School is based on academic qualifications and potential without regard to race, sex, religion, age, color, creed, national origin, disability, or sexual orientation, and without discrimination against disabled and Vietnam era veterans.

Prospective students should apply directly online via a link from the Graduate School Web site at [uri.edu/gsadmis](http://uri.edu/gsadmis). All supporting materials (application fee, transcripts, letters of reference, etc.) must be sent as a complete package to the department or program to which admission is sought. Inquiries concerning particular degree programs or courses of instruction should be addressed to the appropriate department chairperson or the graduate program director, as listed in the "Graduate Programs" section of this catalog.

The completed application package must be sent directly to the department or program to which admission is sought. Final decisions rest with the Graduate School, which, after considering the recommendation of the department concerned, will notify the applicant of the decision.

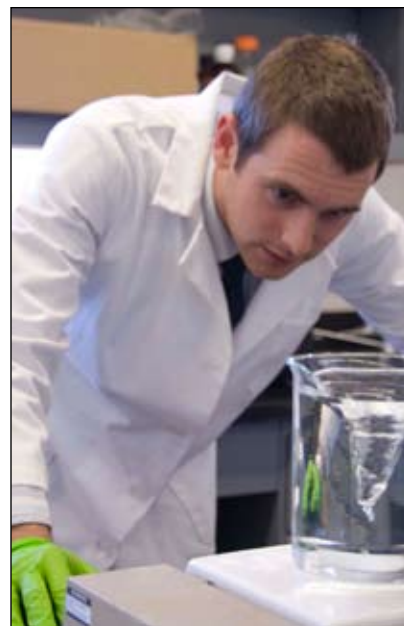
Where admission to a doctoral program is possible for those holding the bachelor's degree and meeting other requirements, the Graduate School reserves the right

to offer admission only to the master's program while postponing a decision on admission to the doctoral program until at least a substantial portion of the master's work has been completed.

Applications must be accompanied by a \$65 nonrefundable application fee. Simultaneous application to more than one department requires duplicate applications and credentials and separate application fees.

The completed application package and all supporting documents must be received by April 1 for summer admission, July 15 for fall admission, and November 15 for spring admission (dates for international applicants are below). The application package must be received by February 1 for consideration for financial aid for the following year. As indicated in the "Graduate Programs" section in this catalog, certain programs admit students only for the fall semester or have earlier deadlines. There is no assurance that applications completed after specified deadlines will be processed in time for enrollment in the desired semester. Admission is valid only for the term offered and must be reconsidered if a postponement is subsequently requested.

**International Applicants.** Applicants from foreign countries must complete the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL). Required minimum scores on the computer-based and Internet-based TOEFL (iBT) are: Reading 20, Writing 22, Listening 17, and Speaking 17 (the suggested minimum speaking score for international teaching assistants is 23); the minimum score on the paper-based TOEFL is 550. If a higher minimum is required for admission to a specific program, it is listed under that program's admission requirements. Apply online at [uri.edu/gsadmis](http://uri.edu/gsadmis). All supporting materi-



als (application fee, transcripts, letters of reference, etc.) must be sent as a complete package to the department or program to which admission is sought. Applications not received by February 1 for fall admission and July 15 for spring admission will be considered for the next admission period. Inquiries from international students concerning nonimmigrant visas, transfers, funding, etc., should be sent to the Office of International Students and Scholars. Inquiries concerning housing should be sent to the Department of Housing and Residential Life (for apartments on campus) or to the Commuter Housing Office (for rooms, apartments, and houses in the nearby community).

**Transfer Credit.** Transfer credit can be requested for graduate work taken at other accredited institutions of higher learning. Under usual circumstances, such credits may not exceed 20 percent of the total credits required in the program. Doctoral candidates holding a master's degree in the same or a closely related area can request

up to 30 credits from their master's degree. The transfer work must have been taken at the graduate level (equivalent to the 500 level or higher in URI's course numbering system) and a passing grade earned at that institution. It must have been completed not more than five years prior to the date of admission into a master's program (ten years for the doctoral program) and must have a clear and unquestioned relevance to the student's program of study. The request for transfer credit should be accompanied by a proposed program of study and must have the approval of the student's major professor and the Graduate School. If transfer credit is desired for work taken elsewhere after a graduate student is enrolled at the University, *prior approval* must be obtained from the Graduate School.

**Degree Candidates.** Applicants must forward the completed application package, containing *all* of the requested materials, directly to the department to which admission is being sought. Where required, test scores in the appropriate nationally administered tests should be sent directly to the department by the testing service. Tests required for specific programs can be found in the "Graduate Programs" section. Scores (GRE, MAT, or GMAT) earned more than five years prior to the term of application will not be accepted. If test results exceed the five-year limit, applicants must retake the examination.

To be accepted as graduate degree candidates, applicants must have maintained an average of approximately B (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) or better in their undergraduate work. For programs that require standardized tests, students must also have satisfactory scores on the appropriate nationally administered test. Applicants with undergraduate averages below the B level may possibly be admitted with submission of other evidence of academic potential; i.e., satisfactory performance in postbaccalaureate work, professional experience as evidenced by publications or letters of recommendation, and/or high scores in the standardized tests referred to above. All

students are expected to maintain a cumulative average of B (3.00) or better. Students who do not maintain a cumulative B average will have their status reviewed and may be placed on provisional status or be dismissed. A student placed on provisional status must achieve a cumulative B average within one semester (or nine credits, if part-time) or be subject to dismissal.

**Advanced Standing.** Advanced standing refers to credits taken at URI by a nonmatriculating student, by a matriculating student while on nondegree status, or by a student in one degree program before acceptance to any other degree program. Credits earned at the University of Rhode Island by a nonmatriculating student may be applied as advanced standing toward degree requirements only upon the recommendation of the student's major professor and the graduate program director and with the approval of the Graduate School. For the credits to be applied to advanced standing, they must have been earned within a five-year period before the student matriculated into the degree program. For a master's degree program, advanced standing and transfer credit may not total more than 40 percent of the credits required for the degree. For Ph.D. candidates admitted without a master's degree, advanced standing may not total more than 20 percent of the credits required for the degree. In special cases, Ph.D. candidates admitted with a master's degree in the same or a closely related area may request up to nine credits of advanced standing. The request should be accompanied by a proposed program of study and satisfy the time constraints listed for transfer credit.

In certain cases, applicants who have been denied admission may be advised to take several courses in nonmatriculating status (see following paragraph) to provide a basis for later reconsideration of their applications. In such cases, these courses are usually regarded as if they were entrance deficiencies and are not accepted for advanced standing in minimum-credit programs of study.

**Nonmatriculating Status.** Individuals holding a bachelor's degree who are not candidates for an advanced degree may take courses during the academic year or in the summer in nonmatriculating status. Normally, to take courses for personal satisfaction or professional advancement, postbaccalaureate students enroll in the Alan Shawn Feinstein College of Continuing Education. Any nonmatriculated student wishing to take courses on the Kingston Campus must file an application with the Office of Enrollment Services. If nonmatriculated students later wish to be admitted to a degree program, they must complete the regular admission procedure.

Nonmatriculated students do not have the privileges regularly enjoyed by degree candidates. For example, on the Kingston Campus they may not register until one week before classes begin and must make payment before accessing the registration system. Their enrollment is subject to the accommodation of degree candidates wishing to take these courses. In addition, there is a limit to the number of courses taken in this status that may be used as advanced standing to satisfy degree requirements. Nonmatriculated students are not eligible for financial aid.

## Registration

The responsibility for being properly registered rests with the student. Students must complete their registration within the time period announced by the University at [uri.edu/es/calexams/detailedcalendar.pdf](http://uri.edu/es/calexams/detailedcalendar.pdf). The chairperson of the student's major department will assign an advisor to assist the new graduate student in planning a program. All students must register for courses through the Office of Enrollment Services in order to be properly enrolled.

For information on late registration, course schedule, payment of fees, drop and add, auditing, Veterans Administration educational benefits, transcripts, change of address, and required identification, please see the section on undergraduate registration, page 26–27.

**Summer Session.** Although some graduate-level courses are offered during the summer sessions, the University does not guarantee that any particular course will be offered. The availability of individual faculty members to supervise research or to participate in comprehensive examinations and in examinations in defense of theses or dissertations during the summer sessions varies from year to year. During the summer sessions, special arrangements must be made with both the Graduate School and the department for scheduling comprehensive examinations and thesis or dissertation defenses. Students must be registered to be eligible to schedule these exams. Graduate students must make prior individual arrangements for taking directed studies or special problems courses.

**Time Limit and Continuous Registration.** Graduate students are expected to complete their course work and research within the five-year time limit prescribed for the master's degree and the seven-year time limit for the doctorate. The time limit for a degree program may be extended for legitimate reasons such as military service or serious illness. An application to the Graduate School requesting such an extension requires the endorsement of the student's graduate program director or department chairperson (see the *Graduate Student Manual*, sections 7.42 and 7.51).

Graduate students must remain continuously enrolled—except for summer sessions, which are optional—until they have completed all requirements and have received their degree. Unless they are on a leave of absence approved by the department and the Graduate School, students who wish to maintain graduate status must pay the continuous registration fee each semester until the degree has been awarded, even if they do not require use of any University resources and are not registered for course work or research.

Students who are on a leave of absence or are on continuous registration do not have the privileges of consulting regularly with faculty on research or thesis preparation, nor of using laboratory, computer, or other educational facilities at URI. Students on continuous registration are not eligible for continuation of educational loan deferments based on student status.

A student who does not register for a semester, or obtain approval for a leave of absence, will be considered as having voluntarily withdrawn from the University. Students who are later permitted to re-enroll must pay the continuous registration fee for each semester in which they did not maintain graduate status.

**Full-Time and Part-Time Students.**

Minimum full-time registration is nine credit hours during a regular semester and six credit hours during a summer session. Maximum registration of 15 credit hours during a regular semester and eight credits during each summer term may not be exceeded without prior written permission of the Graduate School, based on extraordinary circumstances. (Students on graduate teaching and research assistantships are limited to a minimum of six and a maximum of 12 credits.) Credits in excess of 15 will be billed at the per-credit rate. Full-time registration is required of all international students and of all students holding fellowships, assistantships, full scholarships, and traineeships administered by the University.

**Credits Earned Off Campus.** Students wishing to register for credits to be counted toward a degree, who will be earning these credits through off-campus activities (such as research or independent study at a national laboratory), must obtain prior approval from the Graduate School to have these activities listed as part of their programs of study.

**Intellectual Opportunity Plan (Pass-Fail Option).** To allow graduate students to venture into new areas of knowledge without fear that their scholastic average will suffer, the Graduate Council has approved the Intellectual Opportunity Plan. (Please note that courses below the 400 level are automatically excluded from the scholastic average.) To be eligible for this option, the student's major professor or advisor must certify that the course or courses are outside the student's major field of study, are not entrance deficiencies, and are not specific requirements of, but are relevant to, the student's program. A maximum of four credits may be taken by the master's degree candidate and a maximum of eight credits, including any taken as a master's candidate, by the doctoral candidate.

## 2009–2010 Calendar for Graduate Degree Candidates

### Fall Semester 2009

**September 8, Tuesday.** New Graduate Student Orientation.

**September 9, Wednesday.** Classes begin, Kingston campus.

**September 25, Friday.** Deadline for December master's degree candidates and May doctoral degree candidates to submit thesis proposals.\*

**October 2, Friday.** Final date for nominations for December graduation.

**November 15, Sunday.** Deadline for applications for Spring 2009, except for programs with earlier deadlines.

**November 13, Friday.** Final date for December candidates to submit completed defense copies of master's and doctoral theses in a form acceptable for examination purposes along with the request for oral defense of thesis. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.** *Theses must be submitted at least 20 calendar days prior to the date requested for oral defense. Selection of date should allow sufficient time for necessary revisions and retyping before submission in final form. See December 11 deadline and note at the end of the calendar on the next page regarding scheduling examinations during the winter intersession.*

**December 11, Friday.** Classes end. Programs of study due for students admitted for Fall 2009.

**December 11, Friday.** Final date for December degree candidates to submit, in final form, master's and doctoral theses that have been successfully defended. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

**December 24, Friday.** Final date for changes of grade, changes to programs of study, results of comprehensive exams, etc. for December degree candidates to be received in the

Graduate School office for certification for December graduation. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

### Spring Semester 2010

**January 25, Monday.** Classes begin, Kingston Campus.

**February 1, Monday.** Final date for admission applications from individuals seeking financial aid for 2010. Applications for financial aid received subsequent to this date cannot be assured of full consideration.

**February 1, Monday.** Deadline for international applications for Fall 2010.

**February 5, Friday.** Deadline for May master's degree candidates and August doctoral degree candidates to submit thesis proposals.\*

**February 12, Friday.** Final date for nominations for May graduation.

**March 1, Monday.** Final date for nominations from departments for fellowships and scholarships.

**March 26, Friday.** Final date for May degree candidates to submit completed defense copies of master's and doctoral theses in a form acceptable for examination purposes, along with the request for oral defense of thesis. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.** *Theses must be submitted at least 20 calendar days prior to the date requested for oral defense. Selection of date should allow sufficient time for necessary revisions and retyping before submission in final form. See the April 23 deadline.*

**April 1, Thursday.** Application deadline for summer 2010 admission, except for programs with earlier deadlines.

**April 9, Friday.** Deadline for August master's degree candidates and December doctoral degree candidates to submit thesis proposals.\*

**April 19, Monday.** Deadline for submission of nominations for August degree candidates who wish to be listed in the commencement program.

**April 23, Friday.** Students who have both completed their coursework and defended their dissertations/theses (if required) by this date are eligible to march in the 2010 commencement ceremonies (refer to commencement section of URI Web site for complete listing of eligibility regulations regarding participation).

**April 23, Friday.** Final date for May degree candidates to submit, in final form, master's and doctoral theses that have been successfully defended. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

Final date for changes of grades, changes to programs of study, results of comprehensive exams, etc. for May degree candidates to be received in the Graduate School office for certification for May graduation. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

**May 3, Monday.** Classes end. Programs of study due for students admitted for Spring 2010.

**May 14, Thursday.** Final date for changes of grade for May degree candidates to be received in the Graduate School office for certification for May graduation. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

**May 22, Saturday.** Commencement. Also see the University Calendar on page 3 and Summer Session Calendar on the next page.

*\* Thesis proposals should be submitted before or during the first semester in which the student registers for research credits.*

## 2010 Summer Sessions for Graduate Degree Candidates

**NOTE:** All courses taken by graduate students during summer sessions are subject to the same regulations regarding inclusion in programs of study and calculation of overall academic average, etc., as courses taken during the regular academic year. Students wishing to take directed studies or special problems courses during summer sessions must obtain individual approval for these courses from the Continuing Education office unless the specific offering is listed in the summer Course Schedule for that year. Students wishing to enroll for thesis or dissertation research during summer sessions must first determine that their major professors and/or members of their thesis or dissertation committees will be available and are willing to provide the necessary supervision. See also the important note at the end of this calendar regarding scheduling of examinations, including defense of theses, during summer sessions. See the schedule of summer courses available online at [uri.edu](http://uri.edu), or visit the Continuing Education (Summer Session) office in Kingston.

### Session I: May 24–25

**May 24, Monday.** Classes begin.

**June 7, Monday.** Final date for nominations for August graduation.

**Week of June 21.** Classes end. Exams.

### Session II: June 28–July 30

**June 28, Monday.** Classes begin.

**July 9, Friday.** Final date for all August degree candidates to submit completed defense copies of master's and doctoral theses in a form acceptable for examination purposes, along with the request for oral defense of the thesis. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.** *Theses must be submitted at least 20 calendar days prior to the date requested for the oral defense. Selection of date should allow sufficient time for necessary revisions and retyping before submission in final form. See July 29 deadline.*

**July 15, Thursday.** Deadline for Fall 2009 applications, except for programs with earlier deadlines.

**Week of July 26.** Classes end. Exams.

**August 4, Wednesday.** Final date for all August degree candidates to submit, in final form, master's and doctoral theses that have been successfully defended. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

Final date for changes of grades, changes to programs of study, results of comprehensive exams, etc. for August degree candidates to be received in the Graduate School office for certification for August graduation. **NO EXTENSIONS OF TIME CAN BE GRANTED.**

**IMPORTANT:** Requests for scheduling exams must be submitted to the Graduate School office at least 20 calendar days prior to the date(s) requested. Theses and dissertations must be distributed to members of the examining committee at least 15 days prior to the date of the defense. Oral and written (including qualifying and comprehensive) exams and defenses of theses will be scheduled only at the convenience of the faculty members involved and depending on the availability of the candidate's program committee and additional qualified examiners. Such exams will not be scheduled during periods when the University is in recess. Students wishing to take any exams should first check the availability of the faculty members. Each faculty member must initial the request to indicate his or her willingness to serve. Faculty should be consulted well in advance for exams being scheduled during the winter intersession and summer sessions. If they are not registered for course work or research during the summer sessions, students must register for one credit of research to defend theses.