Admission to Graduate Study

ASSOCIATE GRADUATE STUDENTS

Associate graduate student status may be offered to applicants who apply but fail to qualify for regular graduate student status. Only associate student applications will be considered during the late admissions period between the end of the regular admission period and the first day of classes. Applicants for associate status may submit unofficial rather than official transcripts; letters of recommendation are not required at that time. However, Registration & Academic Services will require an official final transcript before grades are released. Certain departments or programs have earlier deadlines and more stringent requirements. Applicants should consult their respective departments.

Associate graduate students who are admitted during the late admission period and who clearly qualify for admission as regular graduate students may petition for regular status after classes begin if all credentials are in order. There is no late application fee. Individual departments may have more stringent requirements.

Associate graduate students are allowed to take up to nine credits of coursework numbered 300 or higher before they must petition for regular student status. In order to be granted regular student status, they must have completed those nine credits with at most one final course mark below B-. Associate graduate students receiving a final course mark lower than a C- will be dropped from the program.

Students should note that individual departments may impose more rigorous probationary standards. For example, the College of Education has more stringent probationary standards; please see the handbook for details.

When the probationary period of nine credit hours is completed, associate graduate students must petition for regular student status in order to enroll for additional coursework. Such a petition requires the submission of any regular admission documents not already on file. Courses completed during a successful probationary period may count toward a graduate degree if they are part of an approved program.

NON-DEGREE STUDENTS

Students who do not wish to enter a degree program may seek admission with non-degree status. In this case, the prospective student completes an abbreviated application form which can be completed online at https://www.applyweb.com/lehighg/index.ftl

The admissions criteria for non-degree graduate students are: 1) a bachelor’s degree from an approved institution with an overall grade point average of at least 3.0; 2) evidence that the applicant has received an appropriate graduate or other advanced degree from an approved institution; or 3) evidence that the applicant is presently a student in good standing in an appropriate graduate program at an approved institution; or 2) evidence that the applicant has received an appropriate graduate or other advanced degree from an approved institution. In addition, non-native English speakers are required to demonstrate English language skills equal to those required of degree-seeking students and are held to the same English proficiency standards.

Admission decisions for non-degree students are made by the dean of the appropriate college or other responsible official designated by him/her for this purpose. The signature of the designated official on the application and registration forms confers admission to the non-degree graduate student status. Informal transcripts will be accepted for initial admission, but formal transcripts must be on record before the student can receive any transcript or grade report from the university or enroll for additional courses.

Non-degree Options

In addition to degree programs, there are two non-degree options: 1) Regular non-degree and 2) Non-degree for external certification. Regular non-degree admission is for students who wish to take up to 12 credits of graduate coursework without seeking a degree. Non-degree for external certification students are admitted to pursue coursework for the purpose of obtaining certification through an external accrediting agency. These students complete coursework for the appropriate certification, with the number of credits being dictated...
by the external accrediting agency. Given this external control of credit
requirements, the number of credits will vary and will typically exceed
the 12-credit limit for regular non-degree students. A student admitted
as non-degree may subsequently be admitted to a degree program,
but would need to submit all components required for admissions
consideration by that degree program. Students should consult their
respective college dean's office for proper procedure.

**GRADUATE COURSE AUDITING**

With the permission of the departmental chair, graduate students
can be admitted to a course as auditors. This course will not count
for credit towards any graduate degree, and may not subsequently
be taken for credit. In no case shall a student who has attended a
course as an auditor be given an anticipatory examination for credit
or register for the same course in the future. A student completing
a course in this manner will have the course and the notation “AU”
indicated on the permanent record. A student rostered on an audit
basis may be withdrawn from the course with a grade of “W” for poor
attendance.

**LEHIGH UNIVERSITY UNDERGRADUATES**

A Lehigh undergraduate with a 3.0 cumulative grade point
average who has achieved Junior standing may take any 400-
level course for which he or she is qualified. The qualifications
are defined by the department and are certified by the course
instructor and department chairperson through petition to the
Graduate and Research Committee. Additional information
on constraints on undergraduates taking graduate level can
be found in Guidelines for Undergraduates to Take Graduate
Level Courses (http://catalog.lehigh.edu/undergraduatestudies/
guidelinesforundergraduatetotakegradutalevelcourses).

Undergraduates at Lehigh who are within a few hours of meeting
the requirements for a baccalaureate degree may, with the special
approval of the Graduate and Research Committee, enroll for up to 12
credit hours of study for graduate credit. Lehigh undergraduates may
apply course credits taken in the undergraduate program toward a
graduate degree under the following conditions: 1) the course credits
are not submitted as part of the requirement for an undergraduate
degree; and 2) courses for possible graduate credit are approved in
advance by the course instructor, department chairperson, and the
dean of the college. The student must receive a final course mark of
B- or better.

**READMISSION**

A student who has not been registered in a Lehigh graduate program
for one year must petition for readmission. Petitions approved by
the student’s major department must be forwarded to Registration &
Academic Services.

**INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS AND SCHOLARS**

International applicants must hold an American bachelor’s degree or
an equivalent foreign degree requiring at least 16 years of primary,
secondary, and university education. International applicants applying
for regular graduate student status must submit all documents
required for that status (see above).