



ORE Policy – Deferred Admission (Approved, 09/2023)

1. **Deferred Admission:** An offer of admission to a PhD Program of the Office of Research Education is for entry in the upcoming Fall semester. Upon receiving an offer of admission, some students may have special circumstances that lead them to consider deferring matriculation. Such requests are reviewed carefully by the PhD program in collaboration with ORE. The program and ORE are committed to support the student's overall career goals, and review deferral requests with this goal in mind. In addition, the program and ORE take into consideration that a deferral affects two years of admission – the one that the student applied in as well as the subsequent one. For these and other reasons, deferral requests are reviewed carefully and not automatically granted.
2. This policy affects students requesting deferred admission, the PhD program involved and ORE.
3. **Process**
 - a. Students who have accepted an offer of admission but wish to defer entry should contact the PhD program as soon as possible but **no later than April 1**.
 - b. If the PhD program supports the deferral, they will notify ORE and instruct the student to complete and submit the ORE Admission Deferral Request Form (<https://app.smartsheet.com/b/form/1e145497f58049c39aa6992cc541677a>), in order for ORE to review the student's request. Please note that in submitting a request for deferred admission, the student is accepting the offer of admission. The deadline for submission of the form is **April 8**. The requests will typically be reviewed within one week. ORE decision is final.
 - c. Requests for Deferred Admission are limited to a period of one-year. In other words, students enter a PhD program in the fall semester and thus a delayed entry would start in the Fall semester of the following year.
 - d. Individual programs will establish a schedule for check-ins during the deferred year to help coordinate the student's matriculation and schedule of laboratory rotations.
 - e. In the unlikely event that a student does not comply with the conditions of deferred admission, a Program and ORE reserves the right to rescind the offer of admission and deferral.
 - f. As mentioned, in requesting deferred admission, a student is accepting the offer of admission and financial support. Accordingly, the student and Program acknowledge that financial aid and support will be reserved for the following year, pre-empting recruitment for that slot in the subsequent year's entering class.
4. **Examples of circumstances leading to deferred admissions:**
Offers of admission to an ORE PhD program Graduate School are intended for the upcoming academic year. On a case-by case basis, upon a program's recommendation, ORE will review requests for a one-year deferral of admission.

Examples of circumstances that support approval of deferred admission include:

- illness (self or family, supported by a doctor's written letter)
- military/public service
- extraordinary career or enrichment opportunity
- extenuating circumstances (e.g., pandemic, immigration issues)

Financial exigencies or completion of a program or course at another institution would not qualify for deferred admission.