

South University 2021-2022 Academic Catalog

Version II

Addendum I

This addendum is effective for all class starts on or after May 31, 2022.

This addendum adds the requirement of students attending the Tampa and Orlando campuses to have all official transcripts on file within 5 weeks. Students at Montgomery, High Point, Richmond, and West Palm Beach were already required to have official transcripts on-file within 5 weeks.

General Undergraduate Admission Requirements

To be admitted to any of the undergraduate programs at South University, the prospective student must provide proof of high school graduation as recognized by the state of residence on the date the degree was earned, or the equivalent (e.g. GED with no single test score below 145 or numeric score equivalent to 2.0 on old version or state-issued certificate designated as the equivalent of a High School Diploma) with a minimum CGPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale. The prospective student must also complete the university administered placement tests prior to the start of the first quarter for campus students and during the first session of attendance for online students. South University accepts the International Baccalaureate Program diploma as meeting the requirement for high school graduation. Credentials earned outside the United States must be evaluated by a NACES or AICE-member credential evaluation service. Please speak with an admissions representative for more information.

Students with less than the minimum CGPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale may meet admissions requirements by submitting a minimum combined SAT (Evidence-Based Reading and Writing, and Math) score of 700 or 900 on the old SAT, a combined ACT score of 18, or a satisfactory score on the university-administered admissions examination (see the Admissions Office) or meet the criteria established for acceptance as a transfer student.

Students with less than the minimum CGPA of 2.0 on a 4.0 scale may be admitted provisionally for two quarters. Failure to achieve a 1.5 CGPA in the first two quarters of attendance will result in dismissal. Students may appeal the dismissal by following the Procedures for Appealing Academic/Financial Aid Dismissal Policy.

To facilitate the admissions process, unofficial documentation, such as copies of transcripts or grade reports, may be used to determine admission status. Transfer status cannot be designated, however, without some verifying documentation. Admissions test scores on university administered entrance exams will not be accepted from other universities. Prospective students must take a University administered admission exam, like the Accuplacer, at South University.

A student's failure to provide acceptable verification of proof of high school graduation within 5*/10 weeks of his or her start date will result in the following:

- Removal from class
- Cancellation of enrollment
- No final course grades
- No transcript

NOTES: Students who do not provide proof of high school graduation within the 5/10-week period will not be responsible for any tuition and related fees.*

South University may grant exceptions to the 5/10-week period for unusual situations or circumstances. All exceptions must be submitted to the office of the University Registrar for approval.*

Please see the policy on GPA Calculation for Admission for additional information

**Effective March 22, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*

**Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*

**Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*

Procedure for Admission to the RN to BSN Program**

** South University, Online Program offerings may not be available to residents of all states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.

The criteria used to determine admission to the RN to BSN degree program include:

- Completion of the application for admission.
- An associate's degree in nursing from an accredited collegiate institution, or a diploma in nursing from an accredited institution
- A cumulative GPA of 2.00 or better on a 4.00 scale.
- Submission of official transcripts from every college or university attended within 5*/10 weeks after the initial start date.
 - *Effective March 22, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
- A valid and unencumbered license as a registered nurse in all US states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments for the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet this state requirement for nursing licensure). *Note: An unencumbered license(s) must be maintained throughout the program.*
- All general education prerequisites must be completed before the student takes any professional nursing courses beyond the 3000 level.

Procedure for Admission to the Master of Public Health

The criteria used in determining admissions to the Master of Public Health degree program include:

- Completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution, with a cumulative grade point average (CGPA) of at least 2.7 (on a scale of 4.0) **OR**
- An earned graduate degree from an accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or higher.
- Submission of official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended within 5*/10 weeks after the official start date.
 - *Effective March 22, 2022 - Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
- Provisional Admissions: A cumulative GPA of 2.5 -2.69. Students must receive a final course grade of B or better in all public health courses for the first two terms/quarters to be fully admitted into the MPH program.
 - Provisionally admitted students are permitted one attempt per course for the first two terms/quarters. Students who do not receive a final course grade of B or better in all public health courses will have the provisional admission rescinded. There is no appeal for rescinding provisional status.

Once all required admissions documents and information are submitted, the application will be reviewed and evaluated by the MPH Program Director for final admission decision.

Procedure for Admission to the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling Program

Admissions criteria for the Master of Arts in Clinical Mental Health Counseling program are consistent with those required in other master's degree level programs at South University. As the admissions process also takes into consideration the characteristics deemed essential to becoming a clinical mental health counselor, material is also required which will enable a determination to be made of the applicant's personal integrity, maturity, interpersonal skills, and ability to communicate effectively. The criteria used in determining admission to the graduate program include:

1. Completion of a bachelor's degree from an accredited institution.
2. A grade point average of at least 2.7 (on an Admissions scale of 4.0) for the last 60 semester hours/90 quarter hours of coursework (including relevant graduate work), or, a bachelor's degree with an overall CGPA of 2.7, or, an earned graduate degree from an accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or higher.
3. A minimum score on a South University preapproved English language proficiency test is required for all applicants whose "first" language is not English as specified in the English Language Proficiency Policy.
4. Interview with the Clinical Mental Health Counseling department chair/program director or designated faculty member.
5. Approval of the campus program admissions committee.
6. Completion of an application for admission.
7. Submission of a personal/professional statement addressing the applicant's interest in counseling, professional goals, along with a self-appraisal of academic and professional qualifications.
8. Submission (within 5*/10 weeks of class start dates) of official transcripts from all postsecondary institutions attended.
**Effective March 22, 2022 - Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
**Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
**Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
9. Current résumé (or career summary).
10. Background Check

All required admissions documentation and criteria will be reviewed and evaluated. Applicants will be notified regarding acceptance. Applicants should review the published general graduate requirements listed in the South University catalog. Students who are citizens of countries other than the United States should also refer to the section in the South University catalog entitled International Student Admissions Policy.

Provisional Admission

Applicants with an undergraduate degree CGPA of less than a 2.70, but not lower than 2.30, for the last 60 semester hours/90 quarter hours of coursework (including relevant graduate work), or, a bachelor's degree with an overall CGPA of 2.70, but not lower than 2.3, or, an earned graduate degree from an accredited institution with a CGPA of less than 3.00, but not lower than a 2.70, will be considered for provisional admission. Students who do not attain a 3.00 GPA in the first quarter will be dismissed. Students cannot appeal the dismissal from the university as a result of failure to meet the conditions of provisional admission.

The applicant will need to provide evidence of academic and professional potential demonstrated by career and/or personal accomplishments indicated in a personal statement of academic and professional goals, a career resume or curriculum vita, and two letters of academic and/or professional recommendations. The Program Chair in consultation with the Campus Dean of Academic Affairs and Retention and College Dean or designee must approve exceptions. The College Dean serves as the final decision maker. Students are required to complete the provisional admissions form for entry as a provisional admission student.

Procedure for Admission to Master of Science in Nursing Programs**

*** South University, Online Program offerings may not be available to residents of all states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

The criteria to determine admission to the Master of Science in Nursing degree program include:

- Completion of the application for admission
- A bachelor's degree in nursing (BSN) from an ACEN, CCNE or CNEA accredited program.
- A cumulative GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Provisional Admissions: South University College of Nursing and Public Health fosters diversity through a holistic provisional admission status for students with a GPA less than 3.0.
 - Applicants with a cumulative GPA of 2.75 -2.99 must receive a final course grade of B or better in all nursing courses for the first quarter to be fully admitted into the MSN program.
 - Applicants with a GPA between 2.50 and 2.74 will be considered for provisional admission with submission of a current resume and a letter explaining challenges faced in previous academic experiences.
 - Students will have an assessment and an individualized plan for optimizing success that includes completion of a mandatory orientation prior to first day of quarter.

Students must receive a final course grade of B or better in all nursing courses for the first quarter to be fully admitted into the MSN program.

Students who do not receive a final course grade of B or better in all nursing courses will have the provisional admission rescinded. There is no appeal for rescinding provisional status.

- Submission of official transcripts from every college or university attended within 5*/10 weeks after the initial start date.
 - *Effective March 22, 2022 - Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
- A valid and unencumbered license as a Registered Nurse in all US states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments and clinical rotations, for entry and maintenance of admission to the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet their state/territory requirement for nursing licensure).

Procedure for Admission to the RN to Master of Science in Nursing** Degree Program

*** South University, Online Program offerings may not be available to residents of all states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

The criteria to determine admission to the Master of Science in Nursing degree program include:

- Completion of the application for admission.
- An associate's degree in nursing from an accredited collegiate institution, or a diploma in nursing from an accredited institution, with a minimum cumulative CGPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Submission of official transcripts from every college or university attended within 5*/10 weeks after the initial start date).

**Effective March 22, 2022 - Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*

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A valid and unencumbered license as a registered nurse in all US states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments for the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet this state requirement for nursing licensure).

Note: In order to progress into Graduate level nursing courses, a student must have a 3.0 cumulative GPA. Students with a cumulative GPA of less than 3.0 may transition to the RN to BSN program to complete their BSN and then apply for the MSN program.

Admission Requirements for Post-Graduate Certificate Programs

College of Nursing and Public Health

*Procedure for Admission to the Post Graduate Certificate Programs***

*** South University, Online Program offerings may not be available to residents of all states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

Consistent with the requirement for admission to the MSN program, the requirements for admission to the Post Graduate Certificate programs are as follows:

- Completion of the application for admission.
- A master's or doctoral degree in nursing from an ACEN, CCNE, or CNEA accredited nursing program with a GPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Submission of official transcripts from every college or university attended within 5*/10 weeks after the initial start date.
 - *Effective March 22, 2022 - Students beginning classes at the Montgomery campus or High Point Off Campus Instructional Site will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
 - *Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
- A valid and unencumbered license as a registered nurse in all US states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments for the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet this state requirement for nursing licensure).

Note: An unencumbered license(s) must be maintained throughout the program.

Additional Admission Requirements for Post-Graduate Certificate Family Nurse Practitioner or Adult Gerontology Primary Care Nurse Practitioner Programs

Applicants are required to show evidence of the following:

- The accredited MSN program includes separate courses in advanced pathophysiology, advanced health assessment and advanced pharmacology. Note: Applicants, whose MSN program, did not require these courses must take them as part of the PGC program of study.
- Applicants with previous Advanced Practice Registered Nurse (APRN) specialization must show evidence of:
 - Unencumbered licensure to practice as an APRN
 - National certification as an Advanced Practice Registered Nurse
 - Admitted applicants may not substitute previous specialty clinical courses (didactic or practicum) for the new specialization or in the PGC program.
 - Admitted applicants will be required to complete all of the specialty practicum courses in the new specialization program or in the PGC program.

Admission Requirements for Doctoral Level Programs

College of Arts and Sciences

South University, Online Program offerings may not be available to residents of all states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.

Procedures for Admission to the Doctor of Ministry Program

The criteria used in determining admission to the doctoral program include:

- An earned undergraduate degree from an accepted accredited institution with a CGPA of 2.7 or better on a 4.0 scale OR
- An earned undergraduate degree from an accepted accredited institution with a CGPA of 2.7 or better on a 4.0 scale during the applicant's last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours earned on the bachelor's degree and/or subsequent graduate work OR
- An earned graduate degree from an accepted accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or better on a 4.0 scale.
- Interview with the Program Director/Chair or Dean of the College.
- Submission of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended, with submission due within 5*/10 weeks of initial start date.
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**Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
- Applicants for whom English is a Second Language (ESL) must submit a minimum paper-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 550 or the electronic-based score of 79-80 to be considered for the program.
- Completion of an application for admission.
- Applicants who are not citizens of the United States should refer to the section in the South University catalog entitled International Student Admissions Policy.

[Exceptions to the Minimum GPA](#)

Applications with CGPA lower than the stated program minimum (2.7 for the bachelor's degree and 3.0 for a graduate degree/coursework) may be considered for admission on the basis of evidence of academic and professional potential demonstrated by career and/or personal accomplishments indicated in a personal statement of academic and professional goals, a career resume or curriculum vita, and two letters of academic and/or professional recommendation. The Program Director/Chair in consultation with the Dean of the College or designee must approve exceptions.

Students admitted on an exception basis will be admitted as regular students on provisional status for the first quarter of enrollment. In order to remain enrolled after completion of the first quarter the student must achieve a CGPA of at least 3.0.

College of Business

Admission Criteria for the Doctor of Business Administration Program are as follows:

Applications for the DBA program are accepted year-round. However, the Savannah campus DBA program only seats new students in spring quarter of each year.

- Completion of an MBA degree from an acceptable accredited institution.

OR

- Completion of an undergraduate degree in business and a master's degree in a business field (such as organizational leadership, management, or human resources) from an acceptable accredited institution. The College Dean makes the final decision regarding accepted fields of study for admission to the program.

AND

- A cumulative grade point average of at least 3.0 (on a scale of 4.0) on the earned master's degree. Additional coursework may be required to meet the Required Knowledge Base. Refer to section on Required Knowledge Base for further information.
- Completion of an application for admission.
- Submission (within 5*/10 weeks of class start date) of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended.
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- Personal interview with a representative from the College of Business as designated by the Dean of the College of Business (may be conducted by teleconference).

Submission of the following:

- A 1,000-word Statement of Purpose Essay that targets the applicant's academic and professional preparation for the South University DBA, along with future academic and professional goals. This statement must detail how the applicant's goals will be enhanced from earning a South University DBA and how the degree will be integrated into future career goals.
- Résumé or curriculum vitae that clearly outlines academic and professional preparation for a doctorate program.
- Three current academic/professional recommendations submitted directly to South University from the evaluator. References submitted to South University by an applicant will not be accepted. These recommendations must present the applicant's ability to successfully matriculate the program and how the applicant will contribute to the overall quality of the program. Additionally, the recommendation must include an assessment of the applicant's ability to be successful as a professional in teaching, service and research.

Once all required admissions documents and information are submitted, the candidate's admission packet will be reviewed and evaluated by the program director. Applications will be reviewed on a weekly basis and applicants will be notified immediately.

[Transfer of Credit Guidelines for the DBA program](#)

The majority of credits toward the DBA degree program must be earned at South University. Credit for transfer work will be given if the courses were taken at an acceptable accredited collegiate institution, the course is equivalent to courses offered at South University, and the course carries a grade of "B" or better.

All transfer credit will be reviewed and approved by the Dean, College of Business, or designee, and the Department Chair of the respective academic department and Program Director. The maximum number of classes to transfer is four courses or 16 quarter hours. NOTE: Dissertation courses may not be transferred from another institution.

[Required Knowledge Base for the DBA Program](#)

Applicants to the DBA degree program must demonstrate a master's level ability to integrate knowledge within critical knowledge areas with a grade of "B" or better. These knowledge areas must have been taken at an acceptable accredited institution and be equivalent to a 3 semester-hour, graduate level course.

Knowledge Areas:

- Organizational Behavior and Communication
- Statistics

Students meeting all other admission requirements except not having met the Required Knowledge Base areas will be admitted into the program; however, these graduate level knowledge areas must be successfully completed with a grade of "B" or better within the first two quarters of enrollment.

If a student does not complete the Required Knowledge Base areas within the required timeframe, he/she will be dismissed from the program.

The Required Knowledge Base course credits do not count towards the total number of credits for graduation nor do they count in the Cumulative Grade Point Average (CGPA); however, they do count in determining the maximum time frame (MTF) and the Incremental Completion Rate (ICR).

[Virtual Residency Requirement for Online Students](#)

The doctoral residencies are a requirement for online students in the Doctor of Business Administration (DBA) program. These are a time for faculty, staff, and students to meet in a collegial learning opportunity. Residencies are designed as a time for students and faculty to work together collaboratively and to support the creation of a community of scholars. Students will participate in faculty- and student-led presentations and will have the opportunity to network and share their experiences in the program. They will also be able to work collaboratively on their scholarship during the residencies, and opportunities to provide service to the academic community will be discussed.

The South University DBA has two residencies. All DBA students in the online program are required to participate in these two residencies; these residencies are part of the completion requirements for the program.

Students attend the virtual Residencies I and II in either the fall or spring depending upon the enrollment date for the student. Residency I is expected to be completed before or during the MGT7100 course in the online program. Residency II is expected to be completed before or during the MGT7205 course in the online program.

If a student fails to attend Residency I or II, he/she will not be able to progress beyond the course for which the residency is a prerequisite or co-requisite (MGT7100 for Residency I and MGT7205 for Residency II).

Attendance

Students are made aware of the requirement of attending those residencies upon admission into the doctoral program. Attendance is required in order to progress in the program. Should an emergency arise that prevents the student from attending the virtual residency, the student must immediately contact the DBA Program Director to receive instructions on how to proceed.

Special accommodations can be made for students who cannot attend a portion of the residency due to medical reasons, religious reasons, and active military deployment. Students who arrive late or fall ill during a residency should immediately contact the Program Director. Students who cannot attend a portion of the residency due to religious reasons, medical reasons, or active military deployment should contact the Program Director at least ten days in advance of the residency.

Other exceptions - There may be additional exceptions that are presented from time to time. How these exceptions will be handled is at the discretion of the DBA Program Director based upon the guidelines set forth in this document.

Documenting exceptions - The Program Director will notify the Academic Counselor regarding any student being granted an exception. Documentation of the exception will need to be placed in the student's academic file in Image Now. The Program Director will then notify the Academic Counselor of the result of each exception granted.

College of Health Professions

Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Occupational Therapy (OTD)

Admissions criteria for the OTD program are:

- Student holds an Occupational Therapy degree from an ACOTE accredited or WFOT approved program (Bachelor's or Master's).
- If licensure is available and an individual is practicing, then he/she must be licensed within the state/territory/country and provide proof of licensure.
 - International students should provide a letter from the licensing agency as proof of licensure.
 - U.S. Residents practicing should be in good standing with the NBCOT and the local licensing entity.
- Baccalaureate degree in Occupational Therapy from an accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale on all Occupational Therapy programmatic courses.

OR

- Master's degree in Occupational Therapy from an accredited institution with a CGPA of 3.0 or higher on a 4.0 scale on the degree earned.
Note: Applicants with a bachelor's degree in Occupational Therapy and a master's degree in Health Sciences (e.g. Public Health, Nursing, Health Sciences, etc...) may qualify for placement into the advanced track.
- Submission of official transcripts from all collegiate institutions attended within 5*/10 weeks of the class start date.
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- Minimum of two years of experience as an Occupational Therapist.
- Completion of application for admission.
- Three recommendations using the OTD Recommendation for Admission Form. Two recommendations must be from an Occupational Therapist.
- Submission of a typed essay, not to exceed 750 words (Refer to the OTD Student Essay form.)
- Interview with the Program Director or designee.

College of Nursing and Public Health

Procedure for Admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice Program**

*** South University, Online Program offerings may not be available to residents of all states. Please contact an admissions representative for further information.*

The criteria used to determine admission to the Doctor of Nursing Practice program include:

- Completion of an application for admission.
- Completion of a master's degree in nursing (MSN) from an ACEN, CCNE or CNEA accredited program
- A cumulative GPA of 3.00 or higher on a 4.0 scale.
- Submission of official documentation of the actual number of verified clinical hours completed during the post-baccalaureate program of study within 10 weeks after the initial start date. This requirement may come in the form of the credentialing documents used to verify the hours for certification examination or a statement from the graduate degree-granting institution verifying the actual number of hours completed during the master's program.
- Submission of official transcripts from all post-secondary institutions attended within 5*/10 weeks after the initial start date.
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**Effective April 1, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Richmond and West Palm Beach campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
**Effective May 31, 2022 – Students beginning classes at the Tampa and Orlando campuses will have five weeks to submit acceptable documentation.*
- A valid unencumbered single-state and/or a valid unencumbered Enhanced Nurse Licensure Compact (eNLC) multistate license as a registered nurse in all U.S. states or territory in which the student is licensed, including the state in which the student completes all assignments for the program. (Note that military, federal, and foreign educated nurses must meet this state requirement for nursing licensure). An unencumbered license(s) must be maintained throughout the program.
- Submission of a minimum paper-based TOEFL (Test of English as a Foreign Language) score of 600 or the electronic-based score of 250 for applicants for whom English is a Second Language (ESL).
- Submission of a resume or curriculum vitae describing relevant work, professional, and volunteer experiences.

Once all required admissions documents and information are submitted, the application will be reviewed and evaluated for an admission decision.