

Lawrence Technological University

Procedures for Evaluating 3-Year Degrees for Graduate Program Admission

March 12, 2013

Determining the academic equivalency of international three-year degrees is necessary to assess the academic qualifications of degree-holders for potential admission to Lawrence Tech's graduate programs.

In March 2009, the Deans' Council agreed that the Office of Admissions would "evaluate international transcripts using training and tools that are available and only require WES evaluation of transcripts for special cases when the international transcript is in question." As a result of that decision, the Office of Admissions has been using the guidelines of the American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers (AACRAO) to determine degree equivalencies from foreign institutions. AACRAO publishes an online database entitled EDGE that is utilized when evaluating foreign credentials. The database is updated regularly by country experts. EDGE explicitly addresses the US equivalency of three-year degrees offered in countries who have signed the Bologna protocol.

Bologna Protocol Degrees

AACRAO does not make a blanket statement about all first cycle Bologna degrees, but rather makes determinations on a country-by-country basis. AACRAO typically equates degrees based on the length of the program. There are cases when a three-year post-secondary degree is considered equivalent to a US bachelor's degree. This typically involves a country where students' secondary education is 13 years in length instead of the typical 12 years. The following list identifies the credentials by country that have three years of post-secondary coursework but are considered by AACRAO to be equivalent to a US bachelor's degree:

- Belgium – Licence/Licentiaat
- Germany – Bakkalaureus (can be 3 or 4 years depending on program)
- Iceland – Baccalaureatus Artium/Educationis/Scientiarum
- Ireland – Bachelor (Honours)
- Italy – Laurea di 1° Livello
- Luxembourg – Bachelor en Sciences
- Malta – Bachelor
- Slovakia – Bakalár (can be 3 or 4 years depending on program)
- United Kingdom – Bachelor of: Arts, Sciences, Nursing, Midwifery, Engineering, Education, Science in Physiotherapy
- United Kingdom (Scotland) – Bachelor of Arts Honours

Three-Year Degrees from India

India is not a Bologna signatory. The Office of Admissions, in collaboration with the College of Management, has developed the following procedures for evaluating three-year degrees from Indian institutions. Applicants with a three-year undergraduate degree from an Indian institution of higher education must meet these criteria:

1. The three-year bachelor's degree must be from a Grade A (or higher) institution that is accredited by the Indian National Assessment and Accreditation Council (NAAC) <http://www.naac.gov.in>. These applications will be accepted and reviewed only when:
 - a. Applicants have earned First Division (commonly 60% or better out of 100%, considered equivalent to a A or 4.0) or Second Division (commonly 50-59% out of 100%, considered equivalent to a B or 3.0 GPA) in their undergraduate degree program.
 - b. Applicants meet Lawrence Tech's minimum English proficiency scores for TOEFL or IELTS.
 - c. Applicants have no more than five repeated courses in their undergraduate program. This may vary within each graduate degree program.
2. Applicants who do not meet the above requirements can alternatively take the GMAT test. A combined score of 1000 or above is then required based on the GMAT and undergraduate GPA as follows:
 - a. $(\text{Overall GPA on a 4.00 scale} \times 200) + \text{GMAT score}$
3. If the applicant's institution is not NAAC accredited with an A grade or better, applicants must additionally submit a record of at least one year of a Master's degree or one year post graduate diploma from a recognized university with a minimum average grade of second division.

Evaluation of Foreign Credentials by the Office of Admissions

The Office of Admissions receives all foreign credentials submitted for the purpose of graduate admission. Only documents received in a sealed envelope from the issuing institution are deemed to be official. After scanning and loading to the ImageNow database, a credential evaluator in the Office of Admissions reviews the documents to ensure compliance with the requirements stated in this document. The data about the credential is compiled into a Worksheet for Foreign Credentials (WFC). The evaluated transcripts along with the WFC are then scanned to the student's electronic record.

The University reserves the right in all international admissions cases to request an official course-by-course evaluation from World Education Services (WES) <http://www.wes.org> during the admissions process at the applicant's expense. Submitting a WES evaluation does not guarantee admission.