

Loyola University New Orleans

Performance-Based Admissions (PBA) Pilot Program

Effective Date: Spring 2026

Approved By: Provost's Council

Date of Approval: September 22, 2025

Responsible Offices: Provost's Office, Loyola Online, Participating Academic Colleges

1. Purpose

- a. This policy establishes a two-year pilot program to implement a dual-pathway admissions model for select online undergraduate and online graduate programs at Loyola University New Orleans. The policy introduces a Performance-Based Admissions (PBA) pathway to expand access for post-traditional learners while maintaining academic rigor.

2. Policy Statement

- a. Loyola University New Orleans will offer two admissions pathways for participating online programs:
- b. Traditional Admissions Pathway: For applicants who meet standard academic criteria.
- c. Performance-Based Admissions (PBA) Pathway: For post-traditional applicants with substantial professional experience who may not meet traditional academic thresholds.
- d. This initiative aligns with Loyola's mission of inclusive excellence and innovation in online education and is informed by best practices from peer institutions.

3. Scope

- a. This policy applies to online undergraduate and online graduate programs that elect to participate in the PBA pilot. Participation is subject to approval by the College Dean in consultation with the Provost.

4. Admissions Pathways

- a. **Traditional Admissions Pathway**
Applicants who meet standard academic criteria (e.g., GPA, transcripts, test scores where applicable) will follow the existing admissions process.

b. Performance-Based Admissions (PBA) Pathway

Eligibility Criteria for Undergraduate Applicants:

1. High school diploma or equivalent
2. Minimum of 3 years of relevant work or professional experience

Eligibility Criteria for Graduate Applicants:

1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally or nationally accredited institution
2. Minimum of 5 years of relevant work or professional experience

All Applicants:

Submission of an updated resume, to verify the work or professional experience.
No standardized test scores, interviews, letters of recommendation, or references required

5. Admissions Process

- a. Initial Review: Loyola Online screens applicants for PBA eligibility according to the Eligibility Criteria described in section 4.2.1.
- b. Financial Aid Restriction: Eligible applicants are coded for a "gateway term."
- c. Gateway Coursework: Students complete 6 or 12 credit hours depending on the program in question and the term course offering.
- d. Performance Threshold: Undergraduate students must earn a minimum cumulative GPA of 2.0. Graduate students must earn a minimum GPA according to the program requirements.
- e. Full Admission: Upon successful completion, students are fully matriculated into the degree program and credits are applied.

6. Limitations

PBA students are not eligible for institutional financial aid during the gateway term (but *are* eligible for federal financial aid).

7. Workflow Summary

- a. Application Intake: A Loyola Online representative flags PBA applicants and routes to the Executive Director of Loyola Online or designee.
- b. Eligibility Confirmation: Executive Director of Loyola or designee confirms eligibility.
- c. Monitoring: Faculty provide midterm progress updates to the program director.
- d. Evaluation: Online Student Success assesses student's progress.

8. Data Collection and Assessment

City College will track PBA student performance, retention, and progression. A formal evaluation report will be submitted to the Provost's Council at the end of each academic year.

9. Implementation Plan

- a. 1–2 online programs per academic level (undergraduate and graduate) beginning in Spring 2026.
- b. Convene a working group of Associate Deans, Program Directors, faculty, and Loyola Online staff to finalize implementation details.
- c. Develop a communication plan for prospective students and internal stakeholders.