

Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

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The GRE General Test (Graduate Record Examination)

The GRE test is used by thousands of graduate programs to help determine whether a prospective graduate student has the prerequisite skills necessary for a successful graduate experience.

The three areas measured by the GRE are verbal, quantitative, and writing.

1. Verbal section of the Examination

- a. Scores can range from 130-170, in one point increments.
- b. Analyze and draw conclusions from discourse; reason from incomplete data; identify author's assumptions and/or perspective; understand multiple levels of meaning, such as literal, figurative and author's intent.
- c. Select important points; distinguish major from minor or relevant points; summarize text; understand the structure of a text.
- d. Understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; understand relationships among words and among concepts.
- e. Recommendation: A student weak in this area should purchase and study GRE vocabulary flash cards.

2. Quantitative section of the Examination

- a. Scores can range from 130-170, in one point increments.
- b. Understand, interpret and analyze quantitative information.
- c. Solve problems using mathematical models.
- d. Apply basic skills and elementary concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis.
- e. Recommendation: A quick and easy way to study subjects in this area is to buy and study Algebra For Dummies, etc.

3. Written section of the Examination

- a. Scores can range from 0-6, in half point increments.
- b. Articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively.
- c. Support ideas with relevant reasons and examples.
- d. Examine claims and accompanying evidence.
- e. Sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion.
- f. Control the elements of standard written English.

Your Score Report - Your official *GRE*[®] score report contains your:

- Contact information (name, phone number and email)
- Date of birth
- Gender
- Intended graduate major
- Test date(s)
- GRE test score(s) and the associated percentile ranks
- Authorized score recipients or fellowship sponsors and the scores reported to those institutions
- Cumulative record of scores reported within the last five years

Official score reports sent to the institutions you designate include your:

- Contact information (name, address, phone number, email).
- Intended graduate major.
- GRE test score(s) and the associated percentile ranks.

Score reports sent to institutions will not include any information concerning the other score recipients you have chosen. Additionally, institution score reports include only the scores that you selected to send to them using the *ScoreSelect*[®] option. There will be no special indication if you have taken additional GRE tests. [See a Sample Institution Score Report \(PDF\)](#).

***ScoreSelect*[®] Option**

The *ScoreSelect*[®] option lets you decide which test scores to send to the institutions you designate. On test day,* as part of your four free score reports, you can send scores from your most recent test administration or from all administrations of the General Test taken in the last five years. After test day, you can send scores from your *Most Recent*, *All* or *Any* specific test administration(s) for a fee when ordering Additional Score Reports. Just remember, scores for a test administration must be reported in their entirety.

The *ScoreSelect* option helps you approach test day with more confidence, knowing you can send the scores you feel show your personal best. It is available for both the GRE General Test and *GRE*[®] Subject Tests, and can be used by anyone with reportable scores from the last five years. For more information on your score reporting options, see [Sending Your Scores](#).

Percentile Rank

Each GRE test score is reported with a corresponding percentile rank. A percentile rank for a score indicates the percentage of examinees who took that test and received a lower score. Regardless of when the reported scores were earned, the percentile ranks for General Test and Subject Test scores are based on the scores of all examinees who tested within a recent time period.

When researching your programs of choice it is important to know their agreed upon percentile rank for admission. The admission committees will rely on their percentile rank to help determine a students' academic fit within their program.

Fees

For the most current information see: <https://www.ets.org/gre>

Other Tips:

Start early when applying to graduate school. Deadlines for programs tend to fall between January and March. Applying earlier will increase your chances of being admitted. Many programs have rolling admissions and applications are evaluated as they arrive rather than all at once. Spots can fill up quickly as the final deadline draws near. Almost every graduate school applicant will receive at least one rejection. While disappointing, it's not quite the final act. Contact the program advisor and politely express your regret at not being admitted. Ask them if they can point out where your application was weak or give you some suggestions on how you might strengthen your candidacy in the future. This will help if you choose to re-apply the following year.