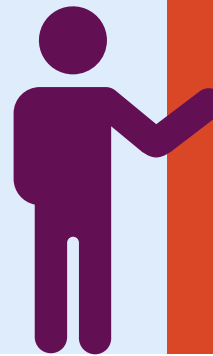




What You Need to Know About the *GRE General Test*



What is it for?

The GRE General Test is taken for admission to graduate, business and other professional programs, such as law. Schools also use GRE scores for scholarship and fellowship purposes.

Who accepts it?

Thousands of graduate and professional schools accept GRE scores to help them make admissions, scholarship and fellowship decisions. See the full list:

- [All approved GRE score recipients, including business schools](#)
- [MBA programs that accept GRE scores](#)

What is the test structure?

The overall testing time is about 3 hours and 45 minutes. There are six sections with a 10-minute break following the third section.

Measure	Number of Questions	Allotted Time
Analytical Writing (One section with two separately timed tasks)	One "Analyze an Issue" task and one "Analyze an Argument" task	30 minutes per task
Verbal Reasoning (Two sections)	20 questions per section	30 minutes per section
Quantitative Reasoning (Two sections)	20 questions per section	35 minutes per section
Unscored*	Varies	Varies

The Analytical Writing section will always be first. The Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and unscored sections may appear in any order; therefore, you should treat each section as if it counts toward your score.

* An unidentified unscored section that doesn't count toward your score may be included and may appear in any order after the Analytical Writing section. Questions in the unscored section are being tried out either for possible use in future tests or to ensure that scores on new editions of the test are comparable to scores from earlier editions.

Where and when can I take it?

The GRE General Test is offered on a continuous basis at hundreds of test centers in 160 countries, so there is likely one that is convenient to you. You also have the option to test at home, and appointments are available 24 hours a day, 7 days a week. If you're testing at home, you typically can set an appointment for as early as the next day. Test center appointments are based on availability.

Should I test at a center or at home?

This is a personal choice. If you are concerned about your home internet connection, the ability to secure a private room in your home or your ability to meet any of the other [required eligibility criteria](#), testing in a center might be a better option for you.

What does it cost?

\$220 in most parts of the world; China and India cost slightly more. The cost includes the ability to send score reports to four schools on test day. Fees also apply for additional activities you may opt for, such as sending scores to more schools (beyond the four schools included with your test fee) or rescheduling your test. [See all fees.](#)

How can I prepare for the GRE?

GRE has a variety of offerings that range from \$0 to \$100, and include an online course, books and practice tests. Many people have successfully prepared for the test using all free materials. If you're considering an online course, we recommend the [Official GRE Mentor](#), which is a self-paced course with 640 authentic GRE questions and skill-building content, and includes access to a full-length, timed practice test at the end. Every month, GRE test developers offer a free, 90-minute [webinar](#) about strategies for tackling each section of the test and answer all of your questions. [Explore all test prep options.](#)

How do I register for the test?

Follow these easy steps:

1. **Before you register, check the ID requirements [here](#).** If you register for the test using a name other than the one that matches the ID you plan to use on test day, you may be prevented from taking the test and you will need to pay to register again, so this is very important!
2. [Create an ETS account](#) or log in if you have one.
3. Select Register/Find Test Centers.
4. Select the GRE General Test.
5. Choose test at home or search for a test center location.
6. Choose the two-month window you want to search and continue.
7. Select your preferred date from the calendar and explore availability.
8. Once you have selected your preferred date, time and location, click "Register for this test."
9. Complete and pay for your registration. Once processed, you will receive a confirmation email from ETS.

Not sure you're ready? Creating an ETS account is a good first step. See what you can do in your account [here](#).

What other resources do you have beyond the test to help me prepare for business school?

ETS offers two **FREE** services that can help you connect with schools. You can opt into them when you create an ETS account and when you register.

The [GRE Search Service](#) is a database that allows graduate and business school recruiters around the world to search for prospective applicants using the information you enter in your ETS account. By opting in, you allow these schools to reach out to you about their programs, scholarships and fellowships.

[GradSchoolMatch.com](#) is a website where you can set up a personal profile and search for business and graduate programs that match your goals. The site uses a proprietary algorithm to recommend potential program matches for you to consider, based on your GradSchoolMatch profile. You can even chat with schools you're matched with directly through the site. Resources such as a loan calculator, decision matrix, program rater, essay interview prep and related articles can help you navigate the graduate admissions process.

Should I submit scores if the school says they're optional?

Here are five reasons to do so:

1. **To present yourself on equal footing with other applicants who are submitting scores, so you are not disadvantaged.** Keep in mind that schools that say they're test optional typically still consider test scores if you submit them. You don't want to submit less information about yourself than other applicants.
2. **To boost your credibility.** If your undergraduate GPA is lower than you would like it to be, or you're coming from an undergraduate program that the admissions committee might be unfamiliar with (e.g. a small, rural or international institution), strong test scores can help bolster your application.
3. **To keep your options open.** You might decide to add another degree to your resume, or switch schools. GRE scores are good for five years, so taking it now helps you stay flexible for the future.
4. **To paint a fuller picture of your potential.** Admissions committees typically consider many different factors about applicants, including academic background and readiness, personal attributes (such as whether you demonstrate perseverance, responsibility and collaboration skills) and career goals and interests. Submitting test scores helps admissions committees more clearly see everything you can offer to their programs.
5. **To balance out differences in undergraduate GPAs and the assumptions that could result from those differences.** Undergraduate GPAs are not standard or comparable across schools. They vary greatly based on the rigor, or difficulty, of the undergraduate school and undergraduate major. They can also vary based on country — for example, schools in the U.S. and India have different grading scales. Private undergraduate schools in the U.S. typically award higher grades than public schools. Providing GRE scores ensures you are providing admissions committees with one standard, objective measure, which they can use in collaboration with your undergraduate GPAs and other subjective measures, to assess your reasoning and critical thinking skills.

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