

GRE: Fast FAQs

The questions and answers below are intended to be general guidelines regarding the GRE. Please consult the official [GRE website](#) for the most up-to-date information. Have more questions about the GRE? Make a “Graduate School” [appointment](#) with the University Career Center!

Quick Links to Official GRE Information

- [General information](#)
- [Registration and test availability](#)
- [Preparing for the test](#)
- [What to expect on test day](#)
- [Scoring](#)
- [Subject Tests](#)

General Questions

What is the GRE?

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is a standardized admissions test created by the Educational Testing Service (ETS) that allows graduate and business schools to objectively compare applicants based on three abilities: Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning, and Analytical Writing. Review more about the [content and the structure of the GRE](#).

Who takes the GRE, and what programs accept it?

Prospective graduate and business school applicants may take the GRE, depending on each program's requirements. The best way to determine if the schools you are applying to require the GRE is to check each program's website. You can also look at these lists of [graduate institutions](#) and [MBA programs](#) that accept the GRE, but keep in mind that just because a school is on these lists, it does not mean your specific program requires or utilizes the GRE.

How long is the test? The GRE takes approximately 3 hours and 45 minutes to complete. Short breaks are given throughout the test. Read more about the [timing and tasks for each section](#) to better prepare.

How is the GRE scored?

The Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning receive a score between 130 and 170, in one-point increments. The Analytical Writing score is reported on a 0-6 scale, in half-point increments. Review [in-depth scoring details](#).

Registration

How do I register for the GRE?

Register for the computer-delivered GRE by visiting the [GRE-ETS website](#).

When and where is the GRE offered?

The GRE is offered in many locations, including on campus in the Shoemaker Building. It is offered most weekdays throughout the year – but keep in mind that seats fill up quickly! [Test centers and available dates](#).

Cost

How much does the GRE cost?

If you take the GRE in the United States, the cost of the administration is \$205. Review a [list of all fees](#).

How much does it cost to send my scores to my schools of interest?

On test day, you will have the opportunity to send your scores to four schools for free. [Additional score reports](#) can be sent for a fee of \$27 per score recipient.



Preparation

How should I prepare for the GRE?

There are many ways to prepare for the GRE, including taking practice tests, purchasing a practice book, or taking a class to learn strategies for the test. These resources are available from a variety of sources, ranging from free to several thousand dollars. The best use of your time and money may be to start by taking an official [GRE practice test](#) and utilizing the free, [official GRE resources](#). You may also consider purchasing a prep book from any test preparation company and working through all of the material before taking an official test. Because prep classes are often very expensive, you may want to take the GRE once to see if paying for a class will be necessary or beneficial to you. [More prep tips](#) (UMD Counseling Center).

*Many organizations offer preparation resources/courses for the GRE. However, please note that the University of Maryland does not sponsor or endorse any particular company and does not currently offer any classes' on-campus.

How many times should I plan to take the GRE?

There is no official verdict on the best number of times to take the GRE. However, we recommend that students leave enough time to take the GRE twice before graduate school applications are due. You may feel less anxious about the test if you know you have time to take it again in the case that you are not happy with your scores. Note that you can take the test once every 21 days.

Timeline

How long should I study for before taking the GRE?

Some students find it beneficial to purchase a study book, take about 6-8 weeks to go through the material, and then take either the GRE practice test or an official GRE test.

When should I take the GRE?

Many students take the GRE six months to one year before their applications are due. This allows them enough time to retake the test, if necessary, and to send their scores to each school (see next question). If you plan to go straight to graduate school after graduation, you may consider taking the GRE the summer after your junior year.

How long does it take to send my scores to each school I applied to?

Scores will be available online in your ETS account and will be [sent](#) to score recipients selected on test day 10-15 days after your test date. Any [additional score reports](#) that you order online will be sent approximately five days after the order is placed.

I'm not applying to graduate school immediately after graduation, but I know I want to apply in a few years. When should I take the GRE?

GRE scores are valid for five years! You may consider taking the GRE before you graduate, while you are used to studying for and taking tests. Then, you can retake the GRE right before applying to graduate school and will have the opportunity to [select](#) which of your scores you send to schools.

Special Considerations Questions

What if I require testing accommodations?

[Testing accommodations](#) are available if they are approved by ETS Disability Services prior to the test date. Processing of requests takes approximately six (6) weeks, so make sure to submit your request as early as possible.

Are there any fee waivers for students with financial needs?

The ETS offers a limited number of [GRE Fee Reduction Certificates](#) on a first-come, first-served basis.