

Paper-based General Test scores will be sent to institutions and test takers four to six weeks following the test. Current GRE Board policy states that your scores are reportable for five years. Your scores are retained for the five testing years following the testing year in which you tested.

GRE Subject Tests

There are eight Subject Tests, offered only in the paper-based format. These tests are: Biochemistry, Cell, and Molecular Biology; Biology; Chemistry; Computer Science; Literature in English; Mathematics; Physics; and Psychology. The 2009-2010 Subject Test dates are October 10, 2009 (register by September 4, 2009); November 7, 2009 (register by October 2, 2009); and April 10, 2010 (register by March 5, 2010). For more information about the Subject Tests, see the GRE Information and Registration Bulletin.

Fee reductions and accommodations

ETS offers fee reductions and test-taking accommodations to properly qualified individuals. See the GRE Information and Registration Bulletin for more information.



Graduate School

Considering graduate school

If you are considering graduate school, the key question to ask is: will your decision to attend a graduate or professional program satisfy your career goals and ambitions?

If an advanced degree is required for entrance into your chosen field, and you have confirmed your career choice by interning or working in that field, then you should apply to graduate school. Students who have decided to go into law or medicine often fall into this category.

In addition, students who have a strong desire for advanced studies of a chosen subject may also choose to enter graduate school, though it is important to know concretely what career options lie ahead. If, on the other hand, you see graduate school as a default choice or you lack a clear idea of where you will go after school, do more research. Don't use graduate school to postpone making a long-term career decision.

Discuss the pros and cons of your own situation with professors, professionals in the field, career counselors, senior graduate students, and advisors before applying. Think ahead: some advanced degrees only take two years, whereas half of doctoral students in the humanities do not have a Ph.D. even after ten years.¹

To help you determine if you are ready for graduate school, please consider the questions below:

1. What are your career goals?
2. How will an advanced degree help you attain these goals? Is an advanced degree required?
3. Have you discussed your plans with a professor, advisor, or career counselor?
4. Do you have the academic stamina to continue in your pursuits or do you need time to reenergize?
5. Do you possess the grades and test scores necessary for admittance into the program of your choice?
6. Will full-time work experience enhance your credentials for graduate school admittance?

Choosing a program

Ask your professors what programs they suggest, identify other potential programs on your own, and check your final list with your professors. Students often apply to three "reach" schools, three "target" schools, and three "safety" schools based on the schools' recommended GPAs and test scores. Other common resources are:

- Graduate school directories: These grad schools by location, degree offered, and discipline. Avoid outdated directories. Our Career Resource Library has *Peterson's Graduate Schools in the U.S.A.* and *Graduate School Guide*. Online versions *Petersons.com*, *GraduateGuide.com*, *Gradschools.com* are fine but cluttered with advertising. Professional associations sometimes publish directories; ask your professors which associations are important.
- Graduate school rankings: The *U.S. News* rankings indicate graduates' future career success in some disciplines. Read the print version of the rankings in our library. Online, *PhDs.org* gives rankings with programs' acceptance rates and other useful data. There are criticisms as to the ranking methods and objectivity; be cautious about how you utilize this information.
- Field-specific guides: These can be found in our library and the Wells Library Career Reference section (in the Information Commons). Some, such as *Graduate Study in Psychology*, are just directories of graduate schools. Others provide guidelines for graduate study as well as a directory. Search and read reviews on *Amazon.com*, then request books through interlibrary loan.

¹ Gravois, John (2007, July 27). In humanities, 10 years may not be enough to get a Ph.D. *The Chronicle of Higher Education*, 53(47), A1.

Talk to students and alumni in each program. Read programs' websites carefully. Visit. The right program will offer financial support beginning the first year, documented job prospects, career training, faculty mentoring, and an environment that will let you stay healthy and happy. Answer at least these questions:

- What's the average time to a degree?
- How are students supported financially?
- What sort of health insurance is available?
- What's the student-faculty ratio?
- Do faculty work closely with students?
- Which test or tests are required to apply?
- What GPA and test scores are expected?
- Is hands-on experience available?
- Where do recent alumni work now?
- How much do recent alumni earn?

Applying

You should check each particular program's requirements, but a complete application typically contains:

- The application form with your information typed in and your application fee.
- Test scores. Different fields require different tests. Give yourself several months to prepare.
- An official transcript from every undergraduate institution you've attended. Generally these are purchased from the institution's registrar.
- Three letters of recommendation from professors who know you well. Give them at least a month to write the letters. Give them your resume, a statement of your experience and goals, any necessary forms, and a stamped, addressed envelope.
- A personal statement of about two pages. Both our library and the Wells Library have books on personal statements. Ask a professor to look over your personal statement before sending it out.

Devise a system of record keeping. Keep copies of everything. Begin talking to your professors, getting letters, and researching programs in the fall of your junior year if possible.

Financial aid

Read programs' websites and call to determine what aid they offer. Some "merit" aid is automatic, determined largely by your GPA and test scores. Other aid requires that you work in some capacity. Sometimes, you'll need to write a separate essay or fill out a separate form to apply. For "need-based" aid, you'll likely need to submit forms with tax information (for example, FAFSA or GAPSFA) separately from your main application.

Many financial aid resources, such as *Free Money for Graduate School*, *Fastweb.com*, etc., are simply lists of national fellowships categorized by field with indexes for personal characteristics (sex, ethnicity, etc.). Others, like *Financing Graduate School* and *Paying for Graduate School*, include fewer specific fellowships but more information on types of aid, the best-known fellowships, and surviving financially in graduate school. But internal funding is usually more important than external awards; ask the program you plan to attend.

Campus resources to help you apply to graduate school:

- Career Development Center advisors will help you with general questions, your resume, and your personal statement, and our library has a section of books for students thinking about graduate school. Online, the Special Career Topics section of our web link library links to program listings, testing companies, and other relevant sites. See our website at *IUCareers.com* for links, drop-in advising hours, and contact information.
- Writing Tutorial Services tutors will help with your personal statement or other essays. Call for an appointment at 855-6738. See <http://www.indiana.edu/~wts> for drop-in locations and details.
- The Health Professions and Prelaw Center (HPPLC) offers comprehensive advice and help, prep test materials, and a letter credential service for pre-law and pre-med students. See <http://hpplc.indiana.edu> for details.

- The School of Education Career Services offers letter credential service for students in the College of Arts and Sciences. For details, go to <http://site.educ.indiana.edu> and search for credential files.
- Bloomington Continuing Studies holds a GRE prep class. Call 855-5108 or see <http://continue.indiana.edu> for details.

GRE information 2009-2010

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) is the most commonly required graduate school entrance test. But the programs you apply to may not require it or may require additional tests. Professional schools require the GMAT (business school), MCAT (medical school), LSAT (law school), or DAT (dental school) rather than the GRE. There are two types of GRE. The General Test costs \$150 and is required by most graduate programs. Subject Tests cost \$130 and may or may not be required for your field. Find out early what tests you must take and allow three to six months to prepare.

The General Test

- The General Test is given year-round on computers at designated test centers. Appointments are scheduled on a first-come, first-served basis. Register early to get your preferred test date and to avoid the crowded testing period of November through January.
- GRE Information and Registration Bulletins are available in the Career Development Center. Register by mail or phone; once you have paid, you will be able to register for an appointment.
- Local testing centers are in Bloomington, Carmel, Evansville, Ft. Wayne, Indianapolis, Lafayette, Merrillville, Mishawaka, Muncie, and Terre Haute. You can call the Bloomington center directly at (812) 856-0684 and the Indianapolis center at (317) 257-7546. For the other centers, call ETS, the company that administers the GRE, at (800) 473-2255.

The structure of the General Test

The General Test has three sections:

- Analytical Writing: In this section, always first, you will do two tasks. One will be the "issue" task. You will choose one of two topics and address it from any perspective you wish, supporting your position with relevant reasons and examples. The other "argument" task requires you to respond to a single, given argument by critiquing its logic and reasoning. (45 minutes for the issue, 30 minutes for the argument)
- Verbal: 30 questions on analogies, reading comprehension, and vocabulary. (30 minutes)
- Quantitative: 28 questions testing mathematics and data analysis. (45 minutes)

In addition, an unscored verbal or quantitative section may be included. After analytical writing, the sections may be in any order. ETS occasionally adds an announced, unscored "research" section to the end of the test.

Preparing for the General Test

- Bloomington Continuing Studies offers GRE Workshops for \$295. See their brochure in the Career Resource Library, call 855-5108, or visit <http://continue.indiana.edu> for more information.
- Prep books with tips and practice tests can be found in the Career Resource Library and the Wells Library Career Reference section.

General Test scores and score reporting

The General Test score report, which will be part of your graduate school application, will include a verbal score on a 200-800 scale, a quantitative score on a 200-800 scale, and an analytical writing score on a 0-6 scale with half-point increments.

If you take the computer-based General Test, you will receive your unofficial verbal and quantitative scores at the test center; however, your analytical essays are scored by hand, so will only be available with your official report. Official score reports will be sent to institutions and test takers 10 to 15 days following the test.

On the test day, you may request that scores be sent to as many as four graduate programs for free, but you must pay \$20 per institution for additional reports and for any reports after the test day.