

Test FAQ: The GRE



Office of Career Development

Vassar College

Q: What is the GRE General Test?

A: The GRE is the Graduate Record Examination. The computer-based General Test consists of three sections – Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing (includes two essays). The paper-based GRE General Test contains five sections.

Q: Why take the GRE?

A: Prospective graduate applicants take the General Test. Test scores are used by admissions or fellowship panels to supplement undergraduate records and other qualifications for graduate study. The scores provide common measures for comparing the qualifications of applicants and aid in evaluating grades and recommendations.

Q: Who requires the GREs?

A: Most non-professional graduate programs (e.g., programs other than medical, law and business school) require the general test. Check with your individual program to see if they require a subject test.

Q: When can I take the GRE?

A: The computer-based General Test is given year-round at computer-based test centers. Paper-based General Tests, administered in areas where computer-based testing is not available, are given on specific dates throughout the year. Check

online for the most up-to-date information.

Q: Where can I take these tests?

A: There are testing centers located across the country. For a complete list of centers, visit <http://www.gre.org>. The nearest computer-based testing center is in Poughkeepsie at the Prometric Testing Center (845-471-6949).

Q: How do I register to take a test?

A: You can register online, by phone or through the mail to take the GRE. To register online go to <http://www.ets.org/bin/getprogram.cgi?test=gre>. To register by phone, call the test center directly or call the Prometric® Candidate Services Call Center Monday through Friday, 8am-8pm at 1-800-GRE-CALL (1-800-473-2255) or 1-443-751-4820. To register by mail, download and complete the Authorization Voucher Request Form (PDF) found in the Bulletin. Mail the appropriate payment and voucher request form to the address printed on the voucher, allowing up to 4 weeks for processing and mail delivery.

Q: How much are examination fees?

A: The fee is \$140 for computer-based and paper-based testing when taken in the United States and any of its territories. There is a \$25 late registration fee, and \$50 fee for changing your testing

location. If you cancel by the deadline, you will receive a \$70 refund.

Q: How long will I be at the testing center?

A: Total computer-based testing time is up to three hours, not including the research section. An identified research section that is not scored may also be included, and this section would always appear in the final section of the test. For the paper-based general test, total testing time is up to 3 3/4 hours. For the general test, plan to be at the test center up to 4 hours.

Q: What do I need to bring to the test center?

A: For the computer-based test, bring your official identification (i.e. driver's license, passport), the names of schools where you plan to send your scores, and authorization voucher, if applicable. For the paper-based test bring your official identification, your admission ticket and three or four sharpened soft-lead pencils.

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Q: How can I prepare for the test?

A: There are several resources on campus for GRE preparation. The Learning and Teaching Center in the library offers GRE information sessions, math review, and practice tests. The Career Development Office also has review books with practice tests. In addition, free official test preparation materials for the computer and paper-based GRE tests are available online to anyone who registers for the GRE tests.

Q: Do I have to take the general test on the computer?

A: The general test is given in computer-based format except where computer-testing centers are not available. In this case, the test is administered in paper format.

Q: How often can I take the computer-based general test?

A: You may take the General Test (computer-based and/or paper-based) only once per calendar month and no more than five times within any 12-month period. This applies even if you canceled your scores on a test taken previously.

Q: I'm not going directly to graduate school. How long are my scores valid for?

A: Test scores can be sent for up to five years following your test year.

Q: Where can I get more information?

A: You can pick up a GRE Bulletin from the Career Development Office (quantities are limited), or visit the GRE website at <http://www.gre.com>.