

Taking the Graduate Record Examination (GRE), Millers Analogy Test (MAT), or other Standardized Test

What is the GRE?

- The Graduate Record Examination is designed to measure academic aptitude in the areas of verbal skills, quantitative skills, and writing skills.
- The Graduate Record Examination consists of a General Test and Subtests.
- The subtests are discipline-specific (e.g., psychology).
- The General Test consists of three areas: verbal, quantitative, and writing.
- Each area of the GRE is normed for a mean = 150 and standard deviation = 8.
- When people talk about the “GRE combined” they are adding the verbal + quantitative scores (e.g. 152 verbal + 154 quantitative = 306 combined).
- The cost for taking the General Test is approximately \$160.
- The cost for taking a subtest is approximately \$150.

When to Take the GRE

- Preferably the summer prior to your senior year.
- This often permits more study time prior to the test.
- This allows for time to re-take the GRE if necessary.
- If you take the GRE after December of your senior year, you run the risk of missing application deadlines.

Registration

- Determine which office on campus distributes GRE registration materials or simply go to the GRE website and obtain the necessary information.
- Obtain the registration materials several months prior to when you plan to take the GRE.
- Select a date that does not coincide with other major events in your life (final exams, wedding, etc.)
- Be sure to register before the deadline.

Should I take the Subject subtest?

- If you know that the schools you will apply to do not require the subtest, then don't take it.
- Otherwise, take it.

Studying for the GRE

- Definitely do it!
- Obtain a Study Guide (available in book form or on CD).
- There are formal courses designed to prepare students but these can be expensive.
- Take practice tests to become familiar with the format.
- Be sure to review your basic algebra and geometry.
- Don't wait until it's too late.

Taking the GRE

- Get plenty of sleep the night before.
- Arrive early at the test site.

- Use the skills and techniques that you learned from the study guide.

Re-taking the GRE

- You have the option to select which scores to send to graduate schools.
- Re-taking the GRE will not likely improve your scores unless
 - You did not study for it the first time.
 - You were ill when you took it the first time.