Avoid these five common mistakes when using GRE® scores

1. Avoid adding scores together. Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing scores should be treated as three separate and independent pieces of information. Using a single score masks critical information about an applicant’s specific skills (e.g., quantitative reasoning) that may be important for your field or department.

2. Avoid using an arbitrary cut score. GRE® scores help you compare applicants, but if you use an arbitrary cut score as a criterion, you could miss an applicant who would be a great asset to your program.

3. Avoid using only GRE scores. Many factors can provide information about an applicant’s potential for success. Using multiple criteria in admissions decisions helps ensure fairness and balances the limitations of any single measure of knowledge, skills or abilities.

4. Avoid comparing percentile ranks of different admissions tests. Looking at percentile ranks can help you better understand the meaning of applicants’ GRE scores; however, you should never compare percentile ranks across different tests (e.g., GRE test with GMAT® test). Instead, use the GRE Comparison Tool for Business Schools to understand and appropriately interpret GRE scores in the context of GMAT scores: ets.org/gre/comparison.

5. Avoid missing out on your free copy of the GRE® Guide to the Use of Scores. In this must-have resource, you’ll find GRE score interpretation data, best practices and more: ets.org/gre/guide.