

PRE-LAW ADVISOR

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

ABOUT THE GRE® GENERAL TEST

How does the GRE® General Test compare to the LSAT®?

Although the GRE General Test and LSAT use different names for the skill sets they measure, there is actually quite a bit of overlap. Reading comprehension and logical reasoning are assessed in the GRE® Verbal Reasoning measure. Analytical reasoning is assessed in the GRE® Analytical Writing measure. Quantitative reasoning is measured only on the GRE General Test. According to the American Bar Association® and the legal profession, all of these skills are important for success in law school and the practice of law.

Which law schools accept GRE test scores?

An increasing number of law schools accept GRE test scores. View the most up-to-date list of those that do so at ets.org/gre/lawschools.

What does the GRE General Test measure?

The GRE General Test measures verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, critical thinking and analytical writing skills — skills that have been developed over a long period of time and are not related to a specific field of study, but are important for all. The test closely aligns with the types of skills that are required for success in today's demanding graduate programs, including business and law. For more details on test content and structure, visit ets.org/gre/general/content.

What does the GRE Verbal Reasoning measure assess?

The Verbal Reasoning measure assesses the ability to analyze and draw conclusions from discourse; reason from incomplete data; understand multiple levels of meaning, such as literal, figurative and author's intent; summarize text; distinguish major from minor points; understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; and understand relationships among words and concepts.



What does the GRE® Quantitative Reasoning measure assess?

The Quantitative Reasoning measure assesses the ability to understand, interpret and analyze quantitative information; solve problems using mathematical models; and apply the basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis. An on-screen calculator is included in the section.

What does the GRE Analytical Writing measure assess?

The Analytical Writing measure assesses critical thinking and analytical writing skills, including the ability to articulate and support complex ideas with relevant reasons and examples as well as the ability to examine claims and accompanying evidence.

How is the GRE General Test scored?

The Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning measures of the GRE General Test are section-level adaptive, meaning the computer selects the second section of a measure (e.g., Verbal Reasoning) based on the performance of the first section. Within each section, all questions contribute equally to the final score. For each of the two measures, a raw score (i.e., the number of questions answered correctly) is computed. The raw score for each measure is converted to a scaled score through a process known as “equating.” The equating process accounts for minor variations in difficulty among the different test editions as well as differences in difficulty among individuals’ tests introduced by the section-level adaptation. Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores are reported on a 130–170 scale score, in one-point increments.

For the Analytical Writing measure, each essay receives a score from a human rater using a six-point holistic scale. In holistic scoring, readers are trained to assign scores based on the overall quality of an essay in response to the assigned task. The essay is then scored by the *e-rater*® scoring engine, a computerized program developed by ETS that can identify essay features related to writing proficiency. If the human and the *e-rater* engine scores closely agree, the average of the two scores is used as the final score. If they disagree, a second human score is obtained and the final score is the average of the two human scores. The resulting scores on the two essays are then averaged and rounded to produce an Analytical Writing score that is reported on a 0–6 score scale in half-point increments.

Do law schools use Analytical Writing scores?

Law schools can view test takers’ scores and Analytical Writing essay responses in the ETS® Data Manager. The scores are useful because they:

- Are valid predictors of law school academic performance
- Provide another standardized measure for comparing applicants
- Assess how well applicants can articulate and support complex ideas, construct and evaluate arguments, and sustain a focused and coherent discussion

Law schools also report GRE Analytical Writing, GRE Verbal Reasoning and GRE Quantitative Reasoning test scores for *U.S. News & World Report* law school rankings. Use of Analytical Writing scores may vary by institution, so it is always best to contact the institution directly.

When is the GRE test administered?

The GRE General Test is offered on a continuous basis around the world.

What GRE test-preparation resources are available for test takers?

There are a variety of official test-preparation materials to help prospective law students prepare for the GRE General Test on their own schedule. These include the two free, full-length *POWERPREP*® Online practice tests that simulate the experience of taking the real GRE General Test. Visit ets.org/gre/prepare to learn more. Advisors are welcome to utilize these materials to become more familiar with the GRE test.

Why should I advise students to take the GRE General Test?

GRE test scores are accepted by many law schools for admissions, and that number is growing every week. Scores can also be used to apply for graduate and business admissions, keeping students' options open if they are undecided regarding which career they wish to pursue. The GRE General Test is offered continuously and test takers receive unofficial Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores on test day. This helps test takers know how they performed so if they decide to take another test, they can schedule it right away.

Does the GRE Program offer discounted test fees?

The GRE Fee Reduction Program is available for college seniors or unenrolled college graduates who are U.S. citizens or resident aliens, can demonstrate financial need or are unemployed, and are enrolled in national programs that work with underrepresented groups. A GRE Fee Reduction Program voucher allows the test taker to pay 50% of the full GRE test fee. In addition, those who receive fee reduction vouchers receive free access to two *POWERPREP PLUS*® Online practice tests and *ScoreItNow!*™ Online Writing Practice (a \$100 value). For more information about the program and eligibility requirements, visit ets.org/gre/fee_reduction.

Another way for applicants to pay less — or nothing — to take the GRE General Test is if an individual, law school or organization sponsors them by purchasing a full or partial prepaid voucher. To learn more, visit ets.org/gre/institutions/advising/prepaid_voucher.

Does the GRE Program provide pre-law advisors with test vouchers to become familiar with the test?

ETS does not provide free test vouchers. However, pre-law advisors seeking to become familiar with GRE test content can create an ETS account to access the two free *POWERPREP* Online practice tests.

When are GRE test scores available?

Official scores are available in the test taker's ETS account and sent to the test taker's designated score recipients approximately 10–15 days after their test date. Test takers can view unofficial Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores after completing the computer-delivered test; however, because

of the essay scoring process, test takers do not view their Analytical Writing scores at that time. Test takers can send up to four free score reports to institutions of their choice on test day after they have completed the test. These four score reports are included in the test fee. Additional score reports, or those ordered after test day, cost \$27 each.

How often can test takers take the GRE General Test?

Test takers can retake the test once every 21 days, up to five times within any continuous rolling 12-month period (365 days). This applies even if a test taker has canceled their scores on a test taken previously.

Does the process for sending GRE test scores change if the student has already graduated from an undergraduate program?

No. The process for sending scores is always the same. Test takers can send up to four free score reports to institutions of their choice on test day after they have completed the test. These four score reports are included in the test fee. After test day, test takers can send scores by ordering additional score reports for a fee.

Does the GRE Program provide any recruiting services to help match students with institutions?

Yes. The free GRE Search Service matches students with participating schools and fellowship sponsors. If the student matches the recruitment profile of a participating school, the student may be sent information about the school's programs, admission requirements, financial aid opportunities, fellowships and other graduate education opportunities. Students are given the option to sign up for the GRE Search Service when they register for a GRE test. They can also sign up at any time before they take a GRE test by creating an ETS account at ets.org/mygre.

Are GRE test applicants eligible for law school merit scholarships?

Most schools do not differentiate between applicants that submit GRE test scores and those that submit LSAT scores for merit scholarships. It's best to check with each law school's admissions department to be sure.

Where can I get further information about the GRE General Test?

- Access the GRE Advisor Kit for resources that can be shared with your students at ets.org/gre/advisor
- Visit the GRE program law school section of the brand website at ets.org/gre/law
- Sign up for the GRE program eUpdate newsletter at ets.org/gre/connect

Still have questions? Contact us at GREHelpline@ets.org.