

# Providing Choice for Law Schools

## Leveraging the *GRE*<sup>®</sup> National Validity Study to Adopt GRE Scores at Your School



To support law schools in their efforts to innovate by expanding the pool of qualified and diverse applicants, the *GRE*<sup>®</sup> program has outlined steps that law schools may want to consider showing due diligence in how they are using *GRE*<sup>®</sup> General Test scores to meet American Bar Association's (ABA) Standard 503. This "Evaluate and Verify" approach demonstrates that your school has made a good faith effort to evaluate the assessments it considers during admissions, and that it regularly verifies that those assessments comply with applicable ABA<sup>®</sup> Standards.

The school should keep written records, which it can share with the ABA, documenting that it:

- thoroughly reviewed the background, methods, analyses, findings and conclusions of the *GRE*<sup>®</sup> national validity study (see page 2 for more information)
- understands and agrees with those findings and conclusions
- has determined that its J.D. student body is reasonably similar to the J.D. student bodies of one or more law schools in the *GRE* national validity study
- concludes, based on the above bullet points, that the *GRE* national validity study's findings and conclusions about the *GRE* test being a generalizably valid and reliable test for use in law school admissions applies to itself
- tracks students admitted with *GRE* scores to verify that the *GRE* test is valid for its legal education program

ETS can advise law schools how to use this multistep process, including how to link their J.D. student bodies to those from law schools included in the *GRE* national study.

Law schools might also consider reaching out for additional guidance from appropriately trained statistical or psychometric experts within — or outside of — their university systems.

We believe that the suggestions outlined here will help law schools achieve the objective of expanding the pool of diverse and qualified applicants, while adhering to ABA standards.

## Important Facts about the GRE® National Validity Study



### The GRE® General Test is valid and reliable for law school admissions.

- ETS's GRE national validity study (Klieger, et al., 2018) provides powerful evidence that the GRE test is valid for use in law school admissions, with no meaningful differences in validity or reliability between the GRE and the LSAT® exams.
- The study shows that the GRE test is a strong, generalizably valid predictor of law student success that provides added value even when the undergraduate grade point average already is available.

### The national validity study results should apply to all ABA-approved law schools.

- The study was conducted in collaboration with a diverse and representative group of 21 law schools consisting of small and large, public and private institutions of varying student selectivity, located across the United States.
- There is no indication that a law school's size, location, or public vs. private status is meaningfully related to the validity or reliability of the GRE test.
- The only characteristic hypothesized as relevant to the validity of the GRE test (and LSAT) is selectivity, and the national study demonstrated that selectivity did not make any meaningful difference in terms of GRE validity or reliability.

### The national validity study results may say more about the validity of the GRE General Test for any particular law school than would an individual school study.

- Using aggregate validity evidence for several law schools to generalize the validity evidence for additional law schools is sound scientific practice.
- Validity generalization is based on a much larger amount of data than is a school-specific study, which can lead to more accurate results.
- The GRE national validity study includes law schools that are representative of the wider law school community to which the study's validity findings are expected to generalize.

To learn more, visit [www.ets.org/gre/law/validity](http://www.ets.org/gre/law/validity) or contact [gretests@ets.org](mailto:gretests@ets.org).

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