



Graduate Records Exam (GRE) Workshop

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CLAS ACADEMIC ADVISING CENTER

Introduction and Overview

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Course Syllabus

Blackboard



Graduate School Timeline

[HTTP://WWW.GVSU.EDU/CLASADVISING/GRADUATE-STUDY-PREPARATION-79.HTM](http://www.gvsu.edu/clasadvicing/graduate-study-preparation-79.htm)

[HTTP://WWW.GVSU.EDU/PATHGPE/](http://www.gvsu.edu/pathgpe/)

GRE Overview

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Revised General Test - \$205
Assesses Verbal, Quantitative, and Analytical Writing Skills
- ▶ Subject Tests - \$150
 - ▶ Assesses achievement in a particular subject area
 - ▶ 7 Subject Areas
- ▶ Educational Testing Services Web Site:
 - ▶ www.ets.org/gre
 - ▶ www.takethegre.com

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Fee Reduction Program
 - ▶ A Fee Reduction Certificate may be used for one GRE revised General Test and/or one GRE Subject Test. Eligibility for participation in the Fee Reduction Program is limited to one time only
 - ▶ A 50% reduction in fees is possible if you are:
 - ▶ Receiving Financial Aid
 - ▶ Unemployed and Receiving Unemployment Compensation

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Fee Reduction Program Cont.
 - ▶ Contact your financial aid office to see if you qualify
 - ▶ Once your eligibility is established, the Financial Aid Office front desk in STU will issue you a Fee Reduction Certificate and a copy of your ISIR. Follow the instructions on the voucher. **Allow up to three weeks for processing and mail delivery**

http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/about/fees/reductions/

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Revised General Test
 - Assesses analytical reasoning in verbal, quantitative and written contexts
 - Given year round
 - Testing sites
 - Prometrics in GR on Burton
 - Register for test on-line (credit card, PayPal, etc.), by phone or by mail
 - Please note: accommodations for test takers with disabilities need to register by mail
 - Computer administered

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Revised General Test, cont.
 - ▶ Official score reports in 10-15 days-email notification
 - ▶ Can retake up to once every 30 days for a total of 5 times in a 12 month period (e.g., May – May)
 - ▶ Unofficial Verbal & Quantitative scores given immediately
 - ▶ At testing, designate up to 4 institutions to receive scores
 - ▶ Sending later: \$25 per institution
 - ▶ At testing, designate scores to be sent to your undergraduate institution - free

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ New Score Report Options
 - ▶ **On test day**, when viewing your scores at the test center, you can select:
 - ▶ ScoreSelectSM Most Recent option — send scores from their current test administration (FREE)
 - ▶ ScoreSelectSM All option — send scores from all administrations in the last five years (FREE)
 - ▶ **After test day**, test takers can send Additional Score Reports for a fee and select:
 - ▶ ScoreSelectSM Most Recent option — send scores from their most recent test administration
 - ▶ ScoreSelectSM All option — send scores from all administrations in the last five years
 - ▶ ScoreSelectSM Any option — send scores from one OR many test administrations in the last five years
- ▶ Scores for a test administration must be reported in their entirety

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ New Score Report Options, cont.
- ▶ Keep in Mind:
 - ▶ You will select by specific test dates, so your scores are all from the same testing session.
 - ▶ The schools you designate will only see the scores that you selected to send them. There will be no special indication if you have taken additional GRE tests.

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Pre-Planning

- ▶ Check with each target school:

- ▶ Is the GRE required for admission AND/OR for fellowships, grants, or other forms of financial aid?
 - ▶ What scores are competitive for each program
 - ▶ What is the application deadline?
 - ▶ Determine when you need to take the test(s)

Graduate Records Exam Overview

Preparation Tasks:

- ▶ Become familiar with basic format and structure of the tests
- ▶ Take full-length practice test in a test-like setting
- ▶ Assess areas of strength and weakness
- ▶ Practice with typical questions
- ▶ Work through problems out loud so you can hear what you are doing
- ▶ Develop effective pacing – last 4 weeks
- ▶ Hone writing skills
- ▶ Review relevant math concepts

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Preparation
 - ▶ Typically take the tests in late summer before, or early fall of, your senior year
 - ▶ Test is designed assuming you will study for the exam
 - ▶ How much should you study?
 - ▶ Regular study period each week – 3 hrs
 - ▶ Think months, rather than weeks or days
 - ▶ Expect that progress will be irregular
 - ▶ Should you take an actual test for practice?

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ General Test Preparation Materials
 - ▶ www.ets.org/gre - Test Taker → Test Preparation
 - ▶ [GRE Information and Registration Bulletin](#) - Information about the tests/testing centers, policies, scores, etc.
 - ▶ [PowerPrep II Program](#) – Two full-length practice tests and additional practice questions – NOT compatible with Mac or some browsers other than Microsoft Explorer 8 and above
 - ▶ Available in all GVSU computers labs in applications folder under Psychology
 - ▶ Math Review
 - ▶ Tips for Analytical Writing, Verbal & Quantitative Sections
 - ▶ [The Official Guide to the GRE, 3rd Ed.](#) - \$40- additional practice tests
 - ▶ [All Analytical Writing Topics](#)
 - ▶ [Math Conventions](#)
 - ▶ For-fee services: [Score It Now!](#) \$20 Online Writing Practice, etc.
 - ▶ [GRE App](#)- \$4.99
 - ▶ Blackboard

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Preparation Materials, cont.
 - ▶ Commercial preparation books and CD's
 - ▶ Commercial Test Prep Courses
- ▶ Additional Information:
 - ▶ Make sure you read all the information about identification, name, etc. given online and in the bulletin BEFORE you register for the tests
 - ▶ Read carefully all information about what you must, can or cannot bring to the testing

Graduate Records Exam Overview

On Test Day:

- ▶ Arrive 30 minutes early
- ▶ ID requirements are strictly enforced
 - ▶ Name on ID must match registration info
- ▶ The following items are not allowed in the testing room:
 - ▶ Food, drinks and tobacco
 - ▶ Cell phones, smartphones, and other electronic devices including cameras
 - ▶ Personal items other than identification documents
- ▶ Photograph taken
- ▶ Handwriting sample collected
- ▶ Test takers receive a copy of scratch paper
- ▶ Testing rooms has proctors and electronic surveillance
- ▶ Policy and Procedures will be covered
 - ▶ Two educational background information questions
- ▶ <https://www.prometric.com/en-us/Pages/home.aspx>

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Revised General Test Format (Approx. 3 hours 45 minutes)

Section	Number of Questions	Time	Scaled Score Range
Analytical Writing -1 Section	1 Analyze an Issue Task 1 Analyze an Argument Task	30 minutes per task	0-6 pts.
Verbal Reasoning -2 Sections	Approx. 20 per section	30 minutes per section	130-170 pts.
Quantitative Reasoning -2 Sections	Approx. 20 per section	35 minutes per section	130-170 pts.
Unscored Section - unidentified	Varies	Varies	No score
Research Section - identified	Varies	Varies	No score

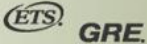

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Revised General Test Changes
 - ▶ Scoring system for Verbal and Quantitative sections:
 - ▶ New score range of 130-170 with one point increments (Previously 200-800 with 10 point increments)
 - ▶ Eliminated Analogies & Antonyms in Verbal Section
 - ▶ Vocabulary still very important
 - ▶ Can move around within sections to revisit questions, change answers, etc. Can mark questions to return to. Can skip questions
 - ▶ On-screen basic calculator provided – learn how to use it!

Use this information to ensure that you are using the right study materials

Graduate Records Exam Overview

Score Report

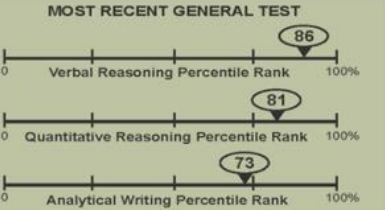
SMITH, MARY A
Last (Family/Surname) Name, First (Given) Name Middle Initial

Phone: 1-601-974-3212
Email: msmith@bdn.edu
Date of Birth: 02/02/1983 Gender: Female
Social Security Number: 8766
Intended Graduate Major: 0203 - Biology

Most Recent:
Test Date: 07/05/2012 Registration Number: 1111111 Print Date: 07/30/2012

Examinee Score Report
(This report is not valid for transmission of scores to an institution.)

MOST RECENT GENERAL TEST



GENERAL TEST SCORES

Test Date	Verbal Reasoning*				Quantitative Reasoning*				Analytical Writing	
	Prior Format	Current Format		% Below	Prior Format	Current Format		% Below	Score	% Below
MM/DD/YYYY	Scaled Score	Estimated Current Score	Scaled Score	% Below	Scaled Score	Estimated Current Score	Scaled Score	% Below	Score	% Below
07/05/2012	---	---	161	86	---	---	160	81	4.5	73
06/01/2009	590	159	---	80	770	161	---	83	4.5	73

NS = No Score (Indicates that no questions were answered in this section.)
*The GRE Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning score scales changed in August 2011. For tests taken beginning August 2011, scores will be printed in the "Current Format" columns. For tests taken before August 2011, scores on the prior scales and the corresponding estimated scores on the current scales will be printed in the "Prior Format" columns. See back page for more information.

SUBJECT TEST SCORES

Test Date	Test Name / Subscore Name	Scaled Score	% Below	Test Date	Test Name / Subscore Name	Scaled Score	% Below
MM/DD/YYYY				MM/DD/YYYY			

SCORE RECIPIENTS

As you requested during registration or at the test center, your GRE® scores have been sent to the authorized recipient(s) below. Visit www.ets.org/scores to view your complete score reporting history.

Type	Institution Code / Name Department Code / Name	Scores Requested		
		Test Type	Test Date	Report Date
GI	1234 ETS UNIVERSITY 0203 BIOLOGY	General Test	07/05/2012	07/30/2012

UI = Undergraduate Institution GI = Graduate Institution or Fellowship Sponsor * See back for details

Mary A. Smith
23 Allen Street
Jackson, Ms 39203
USA

- This score report includes all of your General Test and Subject Test scores earned from July 1, 2007 to the present.
- For information about interpreting your scores, consult **Interpreting Your GRE Scores**, which is enclosed with this report.
- Please check this report for completeness and contact ETS if you have any questions. See the reverse side for an explanation of terms.

1 of 1

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ Some Computer Adaptive Testing Rules
 - ▶ Your score on the first section determines difficulty of second section for verbal and quantitative portions of the test
 - ▶ Don't spend too much time on one question. Mark and return.
 - ▶ Learn to guess effectively/eliminate some options
 - ▶ It is normal to answer several questions incorrectly, even for high scorers.
 - ▶ Scores are not based solely on the number of questions answered correctly, but rather on the level of difficulty. Questions within specific sections are all worth the same points.
 - ▶ No penalty for guessing – so guess!



Graduate Records Exam Overview

Analytical Writing (Analyze an Issue and Analyze an Argument)

Analytical Writing: Analyze an Issue Task

- You will be presented with a brief issue statement
- Your task is to present a compelling case for your own position on the issue
- Your STANCE on the issue doesn't effect your score: Agree, Disagree, Both- Depending
- Looking for complexity of thought and understanding and articulate expression of ideas
- Stick to the perspective in your topic sentence
- Give clear examples and explain their meaning –don't assume that the reader understands

Analytical Writing: Analyze an Argument Task

- ▶ Given a brief passage in which the author makes a case for some course of action or interpretation of events by presenting claims backed by reasons and evidence
- ▶ Discuss the logical soundness of the author's case by critically examining the line of reasoning and the use of evidence
- ▶ The instructions will narrow your focus and will be different for each tester
- ▶ Examples of possible instructions:
 - ▶ Write a response in which you discuss what specific evidence is needed to evaluate the argument and explain how the evidence would weaken or strengthen the argument.
 - ▶ Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
 - ▶ Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.
 - ▶ etc.



Graduate Records Exam Overview

Verbal Reasoning

Verbal Reasoning Section

- ▶ Three type of questions
 - ▶ Text Completion
 - ▶ Fill in blanks in 2-3 sentence passage
 - ▶ Sentence Equivalency
 - ▶ Select the two answer choices that, when used to complete the sentence, fit the meaning of the sentence as a whole and produce completed sentences that are alike in meaning
 - ▶ Reading Comprehension
 - ▶ Each Reading Comprehension question is based on a passage that may range in length from one paragraph to several paragraphs

Reading Comprehension

- ▶ The test contains approximately 10 passages, with 1-6 questions/passage.
- ▶ Most - one paragraph, and only one or two - several paragraphs
- ▶ Drawn from: physical sciences, biological sciences, social sciences, business, arts and humanities and everyday topics. Based on material in books and periodicals, - academic and nonacademic
- ▶ No special knowledge needed of the field
- ▶ These questions make up about 1/2 of the questions in the verbal section
- ▶ Questions focus on deciphering main ideas, authors purpose, what is specifically stated, what is implied or suggested, and deciding what might come next, etc. Be careful not to pick an answer choice simply because it is a true statement
- ▶ Mix of standard one answer M/C questions, questions where you choose all answers that are correct and questions where you choose an exemplar sentence. Shape of check boxes tells you whether more than one answer may be needed



Graduate Records Exam Overview

Quantitative Reasoning

Quantitative Reasoning

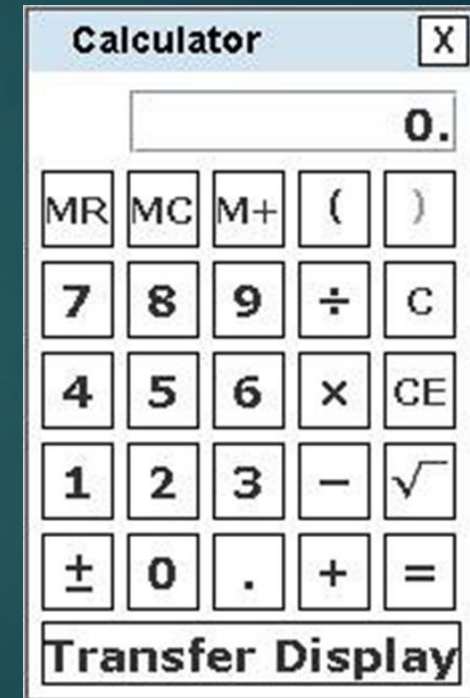
- ▶ Covers:
 - ▶ Arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis
- ▶ Excludes:
 - ▶ Trigonometry, calculus, and higher college-level math
- ▶ Question formats:
 - ▶ Multiple choice – one answer
 - ▶ Multiple choice – one or more answers
 - ▶ Numeric entry – type correct answer in box
 - ▶ Quantitative Analysis – compare two quantities.
 - ▶ Data Interpretation – 2 or more sets of questions concerning a display of data.

Quantitative Reasoning

- ▶ Things to keep in mind:
 - ▶ Read the section in math review or PowerPrep II concerning math conventions used!
 - ▶ Figures are NOT drawn to scale unless the question indicates this, or involves graphs and charts
 - ▶ There are short cuts to finding answers in some cases. See Math Conventions
 - ▶ Pay attention to **UNITS** for answer as well as **INSTRUCTIONS** for **ROUNDING**

Quantitative Reasoning: On-Screen Calculator

- ▶ Operated with the keyboard or mouse
- ▶ Has four arithmetic functions, square root, memory and parentheses
- ▶ Has a Transfer Display button to transfer a number to a Numeric Entry question (with a single answer box)
- ▶ Respects order of operations (e.g., the result of $1 + 2 \times 3$ is 7, not 9)
- ▶ Most questions do not require difficult computations, so the calculator should be used only when needed (e.g., larger numbers, long divisions or multiplications, square root, etc.)



Quantitative Reasoning: Numeric Entry

- ▶ Enter your answer as an integer or a decimal if there is a single answer box
- ▶ Enter it as a fraction if there are two separate boxes—one for the numerator and one for the denominator.
- ▶ Use the computer mouse and keyboard to enter your answer
- ▶ For a single answer box, a number can be transferred to the box from the on-screen calculator
- ▶ Enter the exact answer unless the question requires you to round your answer

Quantitative Reasoning: Data Interpretation

- ▶ Data Interpretation questions are grouped together and refer to the same table, graph or other data presentation
- ▶ These questions ask you to interpret or analyze the given data
- ▶ The types of questions may be Multiple Choice (both types) or Numeric Entry



Graduate Records Exam Overview

Subject Tests

Graduate Records Exam Overview

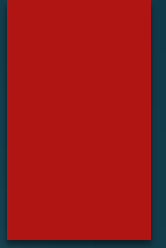
- ▶ Subject Tests
 - ▶ Subjects:
 - ▶ Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
 - ▶ Biology
 - ▶ Chemistry
 - ▶ Literature in English
 - ▶ Mathematics
 - ▶ Physics
 - ▶ Psychology

Resource Review

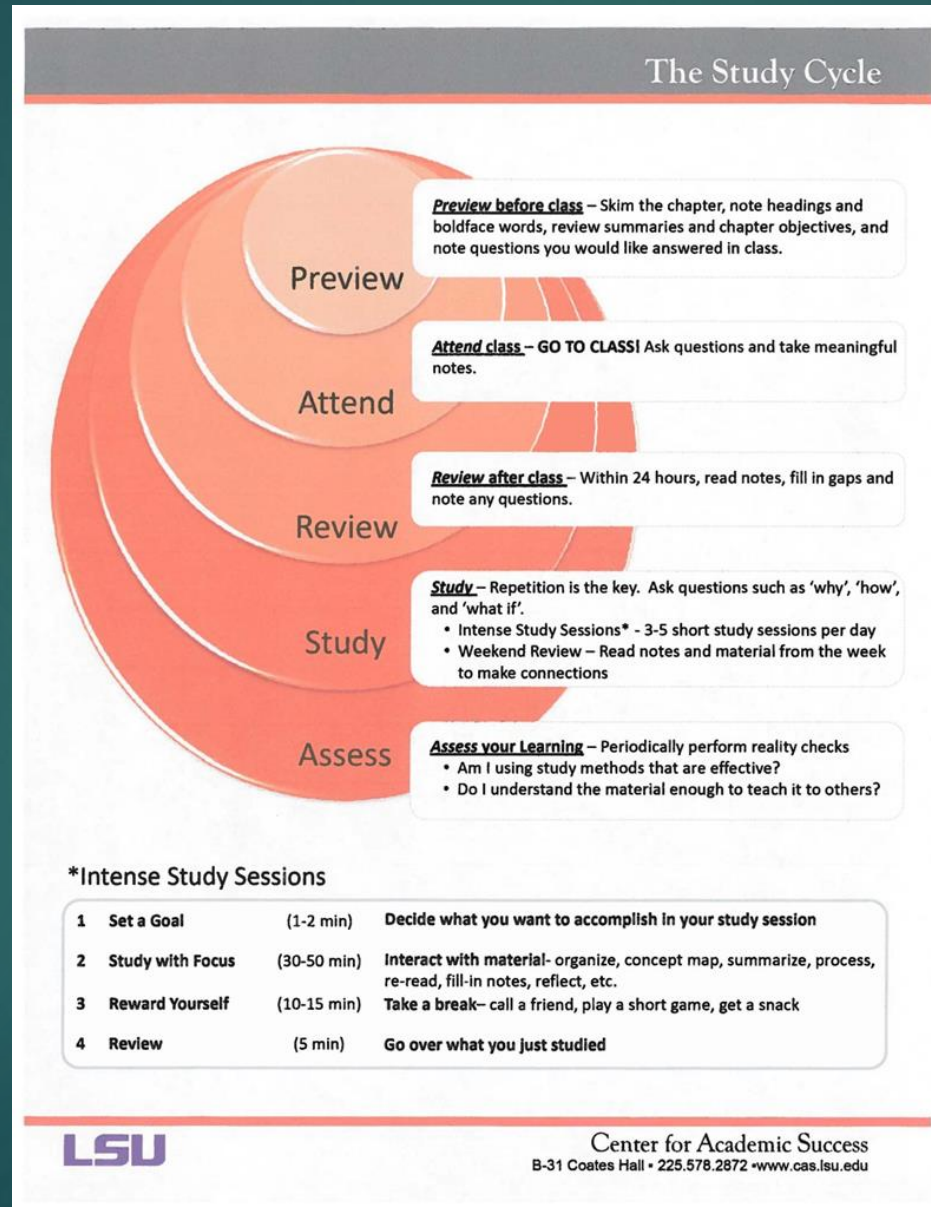
Resource Review

- ▶ [Freerice.com](https://www.freerice.com)
- ▶ [Khan Academy](https://www.khanacademy.com)
- ▶ [Math Review on GRE website](https://www.gre.org/prepare/prepare-for-gre/math-review)
- ▶ [Writing Center](#)
- ▶ [Relevant courses to build skills](#)
- ▶ [Student Academic Success Center](#)
- ▶ [Math Center](#)
- ▶ [Statistics Center](#)
- ▶ [YouTube: GVSU Math Department](#)
- ▶ [Career Center](#)
- ▶ [CLAS Advising Course Reserve](#)
- ▶ PowerPrep
- ▶ Kaplan

Study Strategies and Test Anxiety



Study Strategies and Test Anxiety



Test Anxiety Strategies

- ▶ Prepare
 - ▶ Learn what is on the test, format, etc.
 - ▶ Don't believe rumors or myths you hear about the test.
- ▶ Organize
 - ▶ Make a study schedule and stick to it.
- ▶ Practice
 - ▶ Take Practice Tests
 - ▶ Work on your weaknesses
 - ▶ Practice tuning out distractions, negative thoughts and tension exercises in your practice exams.
- ▶ Student Academic Success Center

Memory/Study Tips

- ▶ Use Active Recall to learn information
- ▶ Try a RELAXED review...review regularly and in a relaxed fashion. When you are tense and cramming, it's hard to concentrate on the material you are learning. Plan out a study schedule!
- ▶ Combine review with a physical activity. Each sense you use provides another pathway for information to reach your brain. Recite while riding a bicycle, walking, running, etc. It's a great way to fit in some exercising, too! (Chewing gum works, too!)
- ▶ Use mnemonics. Mnemonics are tricks, games, or rhymes to help you remember things. Come up with a story, poem, or song to remember information

Graduate Records Exam Overview

- ▶ What if you don't do well?
 - ▶ Do something in response!
 - ▶ Repeat test if time, but study intensely first
 - ▶ Can you compensate for your scores in other ways?
 - ▶ Talk with faculty about possible strategies
 - ▶ Can your recommenders state that the scores don't reflect your knowledge, etc.?
 - ▶ Might they call someone in the dept. that they know?
 - ▶ Make sure the other materials you submit are very strong –
 - ▶ GPA, personal statement, letters of rec., research experience/presentations, relevant experience, etc.
 - ▶ Ace the interview.
 - ▶ Would submitting an excellent paper you've written help? --- Check to see if this is allowed.
 - ▶ In worst case, take a year to improve your credentials and study for retake, and reapply.



Freebies!

Questions?