

Advising Advisors: How to Get Your Students to Graduate School

The GRE: A Cheat Sheet

Pilfered by John Pennington, Professor of English

The GRE: Graduate Record Examination (or the marketing of a product)

- *Parents:* Educational Testing Service (ETS) • *Age:* About 60 years
- *Benefits:* Easy Access (1000 centers); Affordable; Additional Support (for those demonstrating need)
- *Cost:* \$150 (United States); \$205 and \$180 (other)
- *Motto:* "Assess Ability. Predict Performance"
- *Description:* "Assess academic knowledge and skills relevant to graduate study . . ."
- *Stats:* 550,00 people take test yearly; 3100 graduate schools receive the results
- *Measures:* "developed skills over time"; only common measure for comparison; independent information to supplement grades and recommendations; reliable research-based predictor of graduate school success

GRE Test Format

General

- *Verbal Reasoning:* ability to evaluate/analyze/synthesize written material—words and concepts
- *Quantitative Reasoning:* basic math skills—arithmetic, algebra, geometry, data analysis
- *Analytical Writing:* critical thinking and analytical writing skills—support complex ideas
(45 minutes: "Present Your Prospective on an Issue" 30 min: "Analyze an Argument")

Subject Test

- Available for the following fields:
- Biochemistry, Cell and Molecular Biology
 - Biology
 - Chemistry
 - Computer Science
 - Literature in English
 - Mathematics
 - Physics
 - Psychology

Testing Options

• General		• Subject
Format:	Computer Paper in select areas	Paper
Dates:	Computer: continuous Paper: twice yearly	Oct; Nov.; Apr
Length:	Computer: 3 hours, 15 minutes Paper: 3 hours, 45 minutes	2 hours, 50 minutes
Results:	Computer: 10-15 days Paper: 4-6 weeks	4-6 weeks

Scoring Scales

- *General* Verbal: 200-800 (10 pt. increments) Quantitative: Same
Written: 0-6 (half pt. increments)
- *Subject:* 200-990 (10 pt. increments) Subscores for Biochem, Cell and Mol, Bio, Psych
20-99 (1 pt. increments)

Services

Fee Reduction Program Test Prep Materials (includes Powerprep)
Search Services (matches students with schools)

Websites: www.ets.org/gre/gentestinfo www.ets.org/gre/subtestinfo