Connections
Graduate Records Examination (GRE)

If you’re thinking about applying to graduate school, you will likely have to take the GRE. The GRE General Test is a computer-based test which measures critical thinking, analytical writing, verbal reasoning, and quantitative reasoning skills that have been acquired over a long period of time and that are not related to any specific field of study. The test is offered year round at a variety of testing sites and can be taken at the MSU Testing Office in the Student Services Building.

GRE Format

The test is divided into three sections and takes around three hours and 45 minutes, plus short breaks, to complete.

- **Verbal Reasoning**
  - Two sections, 20 questions & 30 minutes per section

- **Quantitative Reasoning**
  - Two sections, 20 questions & 35 minutes per section

- **Analytical Writing**
  - One section with two tasks, 30 minutes per task
    - Task 1: Analyze an Issue
    - Task 2: Analyze an Argument

**Quick Facts**

1. The GRE is offered almost every weekday and some weekends.
2. You may take the GRE in any registered testing site including the MSU Testing Office.
3. You may sign up to take the GRE through the GRE website.
4. The cost of the GRE is $195.
5. To find out more check out the website at [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org).

**Verbal Reasoning** (scored from 130-170, in 1 pt increments) measures the test taker’s ability to analyze and draw conclusions from discourse; reason from incomplete data; identify author's assumptions and/or perspective; understand multiple levels of meaning, such as literal, figurative and author's intent; select important points; distinguish major from minor or relevant points; summarize text; understand the structure of a text to understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; understand relationships among words and among concepts.

**Quantitative Reasoning** (scored from 130-170, in 1 pt increments) measures the test taker’s ability to understand quantitative information; interpret and analyze quantitative information; solve problems using mathematical models; apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data interpretation to real-life scenarios.

**Analytical Writing** (scored from 0-6, in half pt increments) measures the test taker’s ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively; support ideas with relevant reasons and examples; examine claims and accompanying evidence; sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion; control the elements of standard written English.
Be Prepared

- Get familiar with the test ([www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)). That way, you will know what to expect before taking the GRE.
- Once you know what to expect on the test, it’s time to practice. Review the free GRE revised general test preparation materials at [www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/](http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/). The MSU library has several resources to help study at [www.libguides.lib.msu.edu/testprep](http://www.libguides.lib.msu.edu/testprep).
- Read topics, magazines, and journals outside of your interests to expand your vocabulary and knowledge base.
- Visit the MSU testing center website ([http://testingoffice.msu.edu/](http://testingoffice.msu.edu/)) to find study tips, test prep info, and information about the testing site.
- Be prepared the day of the test. Know where you are going and where to park, dress to adapt to any room temperature, bring correct identification, etc.
- Pace yourself throughout the test - you want to finish!
- When taking a Verbal Reasoning or Quantitative Reasoning section, you are free to skip questions that you might have difficulty answering and come back to them later during the time provided to work on that section.
- Are you running out of time? Test takers get higher scores if they finish the test, so aim to complete the whole test. The best strategy is to pace yourself so that you have time to consider each test question, and won’t have to guess.
- You can take the computer-delivered test once every 21 days, up to five times within any continuous rolling 12-month period (365 days). This applies even if you canceled your scores on a test taken previously.
- When selecting a test date, make sure your scores will be reported in time for your application deadlines. For computer-delivered tests, scores reports are sent to your designated score recipients approximately 10–15 days after your test date.
- Be familiar with the ScoreSelect Option so you can decide how you want your scores reported.

Psychology Subject Test

- Not every program requires the Psychology GRE subject test. Check the programs that interest you to see if the Psychology subject test will be required.
- Unlike the general GRE, the subject test is paper form and is only offered three times a year (September, October, and April).
- The test is multiple choice with 205 questions. Each question will have five options in which the examinee will choose the best option.
- A free practice booklet and more information can be found at [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org)
- The cost of the subject test is $150.