

Graduate School Match: MBA

Standardized Testing Guide

A valid GMAT or GRE score is required to apply to the Graduate School Match: MBA and to all our graduate school partners. Tackling the standardized tests first will check that off your "to do list" and free up your time later on to work on your MBA application.

Should I take the GMAT or the GRE?

QuestBridge and our graduate school partners accept both exams. Compare the differences between the GMAT and the GRE exam content and structure below. You can also try free practice tests for each exam to see which one is a better fit.

[Free GMAT Practice Exam](#)

[Free GRE Practice Exam](#)

	GMAT Focus Edition	GRE General Test
Test Content	Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, Data Insights	Analytical Writing, 2 Quantitative Sections, 2 Verbal Sections
Total Test Time	2 hour 15 minutes	1 hour 58 minutes
Test Format	Difficulty adaptive by question. Sections can be completed in any order.	Difficulty adaptive by section. Quant and Verbal sections may appear in any order after Analytical Writing.
How is it scored?	The overall or composite GMAT score ranges from 205 to 805 in 10-point increments.	Verbal and Quant scores range from 130 to 170 in 1-point increments. The Analytical Writing section score ranges of 0-6, in 0.5 point increments.
Cost	\$275 at test center \$300 at home	\$220 at test center or home
Test Report Fees	5 score reports included, additional reports are \$35	4 score reports included, additional reports are \$30
Test Report Available	3-5 days	8-10 days
How long are scores valid?	5 years	5 years

When should I take the GMAT or GRE?

A valid GMAT or GRE test score is required at the time of your application, so plan to take the test well in advance of the application deadline(s). Test scores are valid for five years, so it's a good idea to prioritize testing as early as possible in your graduate school application process. If you are able to plan ahead, it's a good idea to take the test(s) while you are still in college and accustomed to test-taking.

At a minimum, you should allow two months to prepare for the test, with about 15 hours of studying per week. Even better would be to prepare three - six months in advance of your test date with around 10 hours per week of study time.

How can I prepare for the GMAT/GRE?

It's essential to familiarize yourself with the test structure, types of questions, and scoring process. Some applicants find a GMAT or GRE class beneficial in helping them stay on a studying schedule. There are many options available, ranging from asynchronous, online, to in-person. Some applicants are able to prepare with study materials alone. What's most important is to carve out dedicated study time and to hold yourself accountable to the plan.

There are many test prep resources available at a range of costs, such as:

- [Sherpa Prep](#) - online or live GMAT instruction with individualized help
- [Smart with a Heart](#) - low-cost online GRE prep with individualized help
- [GregMAT](#) – low-cost 1 or 2-month study plans for the GRE
- [Magoosh](#) – lower-cost online program for GRE and GMAT
- [Manhattan Prep](#) – in-person, online, private tutoring options for GRE and GMAT
- [MBA Exam Prep](#) – free GMAT practice exams, past questions, and other add-ons
- [Princeton Review](#) – online and in-person GMAT and GRE prep options
- [Target Test Prep](#) – customized study plans for the GMAT
- [Varsity Tutors](#) – small online group classes for GMAT and GRE

How many times should I take the GMAT/GRE?

We recommend giving your full energy and dedication to preparing for the first test. However, if you're unhappy with your score and believe you can score better with more practice, you can always try again. There is no maximum number of times that you can take the GMAT or the GRE. That being said, if you do not see an improvement after taking one of the tests 2-3 times, you may want to consider switching to the other test or reallocating your time and energy to other elements of the application.

Is there a minimum GMAT or GRE score requirement?

There is no minimum acceptable GMAT or GRE score. Our graduate school partners accept students with a range of scores, and you can read about the median score ranges on their admissions websites. Your application will be reviewed holistically with testing being just one piece of the picture. Aside from testing, you can convey your academic readiness for business school through other components of your application, such as your undergraduate coursework, post-college quantitative courses, or analytical and problem-solving skills developed from work experience.

Are test fee waivers available?

QuestBridge is unable to provide test fee waivers. There may be limited test fee waivers available from MBA programs. You can inquire directly with MBA admissions offices to request one. MBA programs are eligible to receive and distribute 10 GMAT fee waivers a year. Additionally, your undergraduate financial aid office may offer GMAT or GRE fee waivers. If you are still an undergrad or recent grad, you may want to inquire with your financial aid office.

Additional Resources:

- [ApplicantLab: Three Best Tips to Prep for the GMAT](#)
- [Chicago Booth: Should I take the GMAT or the GRE?](#)
- [ETS: Prepare for the GRE General Test](#)
- [GMAT: Prepping for the GMAT Exam](#)
- [Stanford GSB: GMAT & GRE](#)
- [Wharton: Advice from an Engineer on Studying for the GRE](#)
- [Yale SOM: Testing Tips](#)