

## Attachment A

### YOU CAN TAKE THE GRE WITHOUT UNDUE ANXIETY

#### Preparing for the GRE can be VERY MANEAGABLE

##### What is the GRE?

The **GRE (Graduate Record Examinations)** is a standardized test taken by students who are applying to postgraduate courses in the US and in some other parts of the world. The GRE revised General Test features question types that closely reflect the kind of thinking you'll do in graduate or business school. ([www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre))

**Verbal Reasoning** — Measures your ability to analyze and evaluate written material and synthesize information obtained from it, analyze relationships among component parts of sentences and recognize relationships among words and concepts.

**Quantitative Reasoning** — Measures problem-solving ability using basic concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry and data analysis.

**Analytical Writing** — Measures critical thinking and analytical writing skills, specifically your ability to articulate and support complex ideas clearly and effectively.

##### What can I use to study for the GRE?

There are several USER FRIENDLY resources that will help ensure you WILL DO WELL on the GRE.

Free **online test preparation tools** will help immensely. The *Magoosh GRE* blog (<http://magoosh.com/gre/2012/top-5-free-online-gre-resources/>) highlights the top five resources:

1. [ETS Powerprep Tests](#) – Free online practice tests from the test-makers themselves.
2. [Quizlet](#) – Thousands of flashcards made by other students about the GRE, including vocabulary and math.
3. [Manhattan GRE Practice Test](#) – *Manhattan* is a reputable source of GRE information, so this practice test is of a very high standard. Complete with explanations!
4. [Khan Academy](#) – *Khan Academy* is an online learning resource that has helpful study material, in particular math.
5. ETS Essay Topic Pools, [Argument](#) and [Issue](#) – *ETS* provides the entire pool of tasks from which your essay prompt will be selected. Practice writing essays with these prompts.

GRE preparation **courses** are also available both online and in person, though these can be quite costly.

- Princeton Review
- Kaplan
- Sherwood Test Prep

Test preparation **books** are also available for purchase (about \$15-\$25) and through most public libraries.

##### How long does it take to study for the GRE?

Study plans are available that range from 1 week to 8 weeks. *My GRE Tutor* ([www.mygretutor.com](http://www.mygretutor.com)) recommends at least 6 weeks to prepare. Each of their study plans includes up to 2 hours of studying per day, 6 days per week (ranging from 10-96 hours total).

**Where do I take the GRE?**

Testing centers are located worldwide. See the *ETS* website for nearby centers. There are three centers in the Pittsburgh area.

**How much does the GRE cost?**

The GRE General Test registration fee is \$205.00. *ETS* currently offers a limited number of fee reduction certificates.

**What is it like to take the GRE?**

Testing takes place in official testing centers, which are essentially heavily monitored computer labs. The test takes about 3 hours and 45 min, plus optional breaks.

**What are the average GRE scores?**

**Scores Reported on the *GRE*® revised General Test**

Section	Score Scale
Verbal Reasoning	130–170, in 1 point increments
Quantitative Reasoning	130–170, in 1 point increments
Analytical Writing	0–6, in half point increments

*GRE*® test scores are valid for five years after the testing year in which you tested.

**What if I don't do well on the GRE?**

You can take the computer-delivered GRE revised General Test **once every 21 days**, up to **five times** within any continuous rolling 12-month period (365 days). Remember that most graduate schools do not look at GRE scores in isolation. Schools realize that some students do not test particularly well, but do very well in their course work.