

Overview of Types of Tests

There are a number of different tests graduate schools use for admission, so it is very important to know exactly which test each school you are applying to requires. Scores on these tests are used not only for admission, but also for fellowships, grants, and assistantships.

Graduate Record Exam (GRE): The general test is computerized and consists of three sections: verbal (30 minutes), quantitative (45 minutes) and analytical (60 minutes). In addition to the general test there are subject area tests for particular areas (i.e. biochemistry, economics, education, history, psychology, etc). Some schools may require a subject test and others may be optional or not necessary. Revised GRE will be offered beginning August 2011.

Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT): Offered solely via computer, the GMAT tests verbal, qualitative, and analytical writing abilities and includes 76 multiple choice questions as well as two 30-minute essays. This exam generally takes four (4) hours to complete.

Miller Analogies Test (MAT): Tests reasoning ability through 120 partial analogies. Occasionally used instead of the GRE.

The Law School Admission Test (LSAT): The test requires 175 minutes plus a 30 minute writing sample. It consists of five 35 minute sections of multiple-choice questions. Two logical reasoning sections analyzing statements for errors in logic, one analytical section solving complex deductive reasoning puzzles, two reading comprehension section, one experimental section, and one writing sample on a specified topic.

Medical College Admission Test (MCAT): This six-hour, paper-based test measures verbal reasoning, knowledge of physical science and biological science, and writing ability. The test consists primarily of reading passages followed by multiple-choice questions.

Other exams include Allied Health Professional Admission Test (AHPAT), Dental Admission Test (DAT), Veterinary College Admission Test (VCAT), Optometry College Admission Test (OCAT), Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT), and Praxis (Education)



Applying for Graduate School

Common Reasons Graduate School Applications are Rejected:



- Inappropriate undergraduate curriculum
- Poor grades or lack of academic prerequisites
- Low admissions test scores
- Weak or ineffective recommendation letters
- Missed deadlines
- Incomplete application or files

The Career Center
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Graduate School Time Table

Applying to graduate school can be a long and time consuming process. It is important to start early in deciding whether or not you want to go and where you would like to apply. Keep in mind that all times indicated below are APPROXIMATE, and you will need to check deadlines for specific programs since they vary from institution to institution.

Junior Year/Summer Before Senior Year

- Start looking at graduate school guides and web sites to help you decide where you would like to apply. Determine information from the school, such as test requirements, application deadlines, and test dates.
- Start a checklist of schools you want to apply to and keep track of what you have completed in the application process.
- Meet with faculty and Career Center counselors to discuss programs.
- Determine which test you need to take and take them.
- Begin budgeting for the application process.

September/October of Your Senior Year

- Review your checklist of schools/programs, application requirements, test requirements, fees, and deadlines.
- Take required standardized tests.
- Write a draft of your personal statement.
- Research financial aid sources.
- Begin to figure your budget based on financial aid, cost of school, etc.
- Request letters of recommendation from faculty.

November/December

- Check how the school wants the transcript sent. Order official transcripts from the Registrar's Office.
- Finalize your personal statement.
- Mail applications early, even if deadlines are later.
- Apply for assistantships, fellowships, and grants.

January/March

- Contact schools about the possibility of visiting.
- If you are taking out student loans fill out the FAFSA or GAPSFA. Find out which one your school requires.

April

- Discuss your acceptances, rejections, and other career options with a faculty member or a career counselor.

Peterson's Guide

<http://www.petersons.com>

The Most Comprehensive Online Source of Graduate School Information

<http://www.gradschools.com>

Graduate School Guide

<http://www.graduateguide.com>

Graduate School Survival Guide

<http://gradschool.about.com>

Princeton Review Homepage

<http://www.review.com/graduate>

Kaplan Test

<http://www.kaptest.com>

Career Center Homepage

<http://www.career.colostate.edu>

Helpful Websites

Admission Policies and Procedures

Graduate school admission is a tricky business. From the GRE to filling out applications, the admission process involves hard work and the coordination of many resources. The key to success is planning based on correct information.

Application and Fee: Make sure the application is neatly completed and is mailed by the deadline. Be sure to enclose the required fee and apply as early as possible – even if your school has a rolling admission.

Transcript: If you have attended more than one college, include copies of transcripts from each school to show all credits earned toward your degree. More than one copy of the transcript may be required.

Letters of Reference: Typically required as part of the application process and provided by faculty members or past employers. Choose your reference writers and schedule an appointment to meet with them to discuss your goals.

Interview: May be required by the institution. If you are applying for an assistantship you may be required to interview. Be professional and be prepared.