

# graduate admission tests



« Graduate school involves a major investment personally, intellectually, socially, emotionally, and financially. Be sure to allow yourself enough time to do your “due diligence” and get all of the information you want and need. It is wise to take about a year to do your research.»

DR. DONALD MARTIN, GRAD SCHOOL ROAD MAP

THE MAIN REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO EDUCATIONAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE UNITED STATES ARE:

- A STRONG ACADEMIC BACKGROUND;
- DEMONSTRATED COMMAND OF THE ENGLISH LANGUAGE;
- FOR MANY PROGRAMS, SCORES ON ONE OR MORE STANDARDIZED ADMISSIONS TESTS SUCH AS THE GRADUATE RECORD EXAMINATION (GRE) GENERAL TEST OR A DEMONSTRATION OF PROFICIENCY IN YOUR FIELD (GRE SUBJECT TEST), OR SOMETIMES BOTH;
- ADEQUATE FINANCIAL RESOURCES.

*“You need to be familiar with the structure of admission tests and prepare for them.”*  
– Literature student from Hungary

## GRADUATE ADMISSION TESTS

Standardized exams are one way in which US universities will assess your academic potential amongst both US and international applicants.

### English Language Proficiency Exams

To participate in graduate study in the United States successfully, students must be able to read, write, and communicate orally in English with a high degree of proficiency. The two most widely accepted English language proficiency exams are [TOEFL](#) and [IELTS](#).

- [TOEFL test locations and dates](#)
- [Search for an IELTS test center](#)
- Explore the links below for test preparation options or talk to your EducationUSA adviser.

### GRE (Graduate Record Examination)

If you are planning to enter into a professional or academic/ research Master’s program other than medicine or business, you will most likely sit the [GRE](#). This three to four hour exam includes sections on quantitative analysis, verbal reasoning and analytical writing and is offered in a computer-based, adaptive format and paper-based format.

### TIP:

Plan to take the test as early as possible — at least a year before you plan to enroll.

Over 4,000 US institutions use TOEFL to measure the English-language proficiency of their international applicants. IELTS is also recognized and accepted by more than 1,700 educational institutions in the USA.

Consult an EducationUSA adviser or U.S. university website for information about which exams are required or accepted.

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## TIP:

Remember that at busy times of the year (July to December) you may not be able to take the test immediately; therefore, register well in advance.

**Keep in mind:** Usually, the faculty of each department within a university determine the requirements for various admissions tests, as well as the weight given to the results. Consequently, there is no general rule to follow with respect to test requirements.

**GRADUATE TEST  
PREPARATION AND  
RELATED LINKS**

## GRE (Graduate Record Examination)

- [GRE test locations and dates](#)
- The [GRE Subject Tests](#), offered three times a year, gauge undergraduate achievement in eight specific fields of study and can help forecast a candidate's potential for success in graduate school. Before registering for these tests, check with your university about the entrance exams they require.

## GMAT® (Graduate Management Admission Test)

Over 1,900 graduate business schools around the world use GMAT scores as a part of their admissions process. Test-takers will complete three sections: Analytical Writing (60 minutes), Quantitative (75 minutes) and the Verbal Section (75 minutes).

- Schedule a [GMAT](#) appointment or learn more about graduate business degrees in the United States.

## Additional tests

Check university websites for admission requirements before registering for an entrance exam.

- LSAT (Law School Admission Test): If you are interested in pursuing a law degree (J.D.), you will likely be required to take the [LSAT](#). The LSAT is required by most J.D. degree programs, but not LL.M. (Master of Laws) programs which often require the GRE.
- The MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) is required for entrance to most M.D. programs. Talk to an EducationUSA adviser or please visit the [MCAT](#) website.

## Preparing to take the exams

EducationUSA advising centers have test preparation materials available for onsite consultation, loan, and in some cases for purchase. Several centers offer test preparation courses. Contact the [EducationUSA advising center](#) nearest you to learn more.



EducationUSA advisers in 170 countries provide accurate, unbiased information about all accredited U.S. higher education institutions. Find your EducationUSA center at: [www.educationUSA.state.gov/centers](http://www.educationUSA.state.gov/centers). Special thanks to the US-UK Fulbright Commission for contributing to this article.

