INFORMATION FOR APPLICANTS:

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General Test has been revised. Beginning August 2011, applicants will only be able to take the revised test. Applicants who need their score report before November 2011 must take the current version of the exam before August 1, 2011.

Education Testing Services (ETS) asserts that the revisions to the GRE General Test are intended to more closely assess the skills needed in today’s demanding graduate and business school programs. The revised content, format, and scoring are meant to help score users make more informed admissions decisions.

Visit the ETS.org website for more information. Videos, newsletters, and advisor information kits are available in the online information center.

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE GRE REVISED GENERAL TEST:

Test Administration

How does the GRE revised General Test differ from the current GRE General Test?
ETS asserts that test questions will better reflect the skills students need for graduate and business school. New features include the ability to edit, skip, and review your answers within a section. Also, test takers will have access to an on-screen calculator for the quantitative portion of the exam. Learn more about the revised test content on the ETS website.

Scores and Reporting

Will scores still be valid for 5 years?
The policy regarding the “lifespan” of GRE scores remains the same. Scores are valid for up to 5 years from the date the exam was taken. Each program should use their program application deadline to determine the validity of a score in the fifth year.

Has the scoring system changed?
Yes. Scores from both the current and revised versions of the General Test are equally valuable. However, the revised scoring scale will no longer use the 200 – 800 format in 10-point increments. Instead, scores will be reported on a new 130 – 170 scale in 1-point increments for Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning. Analytical Writing will continue to be reported on the same 0 – 6 score level in half-point increments.

Changes to the scoring scale will provide more simplicity in distinguishing performance differences between candidates. Learn more about test questions and scoring on the ETS website.

Will ETS report current and revised exam scores?
Yes. ETS will report the results for the revised exam (taken after August 1, 2011) and its equivalent to the current score format (taken prior to August 1, 2011). Pictured on the right is an example of the new score report format.
When will scores be reported for the revised exam?
Due to a special score reporting schedule, test takers who take the exam between August 1 and September 30 will have their GRE scores sent by mid-November 2011. Score reports for exams taken in October and November will be sent starting in mid- to late November 2011. Normal score reporting of 10 – 15 days after the test date will resume in December 2011.

NOTE: Scores for exams completed before August 1, 2011 will be sent within 10 – 15 days.

How will we be able to compare an applicant’s performance on the current exam versus results on the revised exam?
In addition to the comparison information provided on the score report, a concordance table will be provided on the ETS website in early November 2011. This table will serve as a score translation tool to help you compare scores from the current 200 – 800 scale to the revised 130 – 170 scale.

Which score should I enter in PIDMS?
If the applicant took the current exam (test dates before August 1, 2011), please enter the current exam score as it appears on the score report; a number between 200 and 800. If the applicant took the revised exam (test dates August 1, 2011 and beyond), please enter the revised exam score as it appears on the score report in the new score format; a number between 130 and 170.

As a reminder, only enter scores received directly from ETS or from the Graduate School. GRE scores provided by applicants must not be entered.

What if a student has scores from both test versions?
If an applicant takes the exam multiple times, exam scores from each test administration date must be entered. Scores from either test version can be entered on data entry screens UPDGRADM (SAMGDVUP) “GRADUATE SCHOOL APPLICANT” or UPDSCORE (SAM40VUP) “UPDATE ADM TEST SCORES.” The test subject fields are also the same (VERB, QUAN, WRIT).

The UPDGAD (SAM44VUP) “INQ GRAD ADM DECSN” screen displays the highest official score reported for each section (Verbal, Quantitative and Analytical Writing). Scores on this screen will be converted to the new range (130-170) using the ETS concordance table. This allows users to evaluate an applicant’s scores regardless of which version of the test they took.
Launch Date and Registration

When will applicants begin taking the revised exam?
The first administration date will be August 1, 2011.

What is the last date for taking the current version of the GRE General Test?
The current version of the GRE General Test will be administered through July 2011.

When can applicants begin registering for the revised exam?
Test registration opens on March 15, 2011. Individuals who register to take the exam between August 1, 2011 and September 30, 2011 will receive a 50% discount on registration costs.

Will ETS continue to offer GRE Fee Reduction Certificates to McNair Scholars?
The 50% fee reduction program will continue for McNair Scholars as well as for the following programs: Project 1000, Gates Millennium Program, and GEM: National Consortium for Graduate Degrees for Minorities in Engineering and Science Program. The discount for individuals who register between August 1 and September 30, 2011 cannot be combined with this Fee Reduction Certificate offer.

Will split-testing continue for test takers in China (including Hong Kong), Korea and Taiwan?
The split-test administration model will be eliminated and replaced with more frequent testing in China (including Hong Kong), Korea and Taiwan. There will now be one to two fixed administrations per month. Test takers in these areas will also be able to take the entire GRE revised General Test on computer, in one session and on the same day.

Sign up for eUpdates from ETS at: https://onyx.ets.org/735GRESignup.htm