**TAKING THE GRE (GENERAL TEST)**

**Preparing for the Test**

Probably the first thing you should do is thoroughly review the GRE website (**http://www.ets.org/gre/**). From there you can go to **http://www.ets.org/gre/general/prepare/**, where you can find a lot of free prep materials, as well as some materials that you can buy. There's also a link to strategies and tips for taking the test.

Another website that you might find helpful is **www.greguide.com**. Although not affiliated with the Educational Testing Service (ETS), the organization that administers and scores the GRE, the SAT, and the AP tests, this site has links to free practice tests, a free prep course, and other useful information.

Popular sources for prep information: Princeton Review ([**http://www.princetonreview.com/**](http://www.princetonreview.com/)), Kaplan ([**http://www.kaptest.com/GRE/Home/index.html**](http://www.kaptest.com/GRE/Home/index.html)), and PowerScore ([**http://www.powerscore.com/index.htm**](http://www.powerscore.com/index.htm)). You might want to check out all of these online and then choose the one(s) that you think will work best for you. There are other sources of information as well. Many students recommend the book, “Barron's GRE,” which sells for about $10.50 at Amazon – not a bad price for a book that's over 500 pages long! Other popular books are “Kaplan 2013 GRE Premier, which includes 5 Online Practice Tests and a DVD; and “Cracking the GRE” (2013 Edition), published by Princeton Review.

**Tips for Taking the Test (from Former Students)**

● Be aware of the following before you take the test:

 > The types of questions

 > The length of each section

 > The time limits

● Questions toward the beginning of each section affect your overall score the most. It is important to get these correct without spending too much time on them.

● Do not rush through the test. Pacing is an important aspect of the GRE, so you should try to be accurate but quick with your answers. Taking practice tests should help you improve your pacing.

● Use the process of elimination in answering the multiple choice questions. Even if you’re uncertain about the answer to a particular question, using the process of elimination can tilt the odds in your favor.

● Use the scrap paper provided at the testing site. This can help you in outlining your answers in the written section, as well as working through problems in the quantitative section.

**Interpreting Your Scores**

Note: A table can be found at http://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre\_guide\_table1a.pdf that provides approximate percentiles for scores on the General Test.

**Advice from the Director of a PsyD program**: I have used percentiles to advise students regarding their GRE scores. If their scores are in the lower 50%, I suggest they consider masters programs. If their scores are in the first quartile, they should consider looking for a job. If their scores are in the top quartile, they should apply to competitive programs. If their scores are around the 50th percentile, they might consider both masters and doctoral programs. If they want to practice in psychology, a PsyD from an APA-accredited program could be an option if their GRE scores are average but they have a high GPA.

**Sending Your Scores**

Your registration fee for the test entitles you to request that scores be sent to as many as four graduate institutions or fellowship sponsors – you’ll be asked to designate these score recipients at the test center. And with the ScoreSelectSM option, you can decide which test scores to send to the institutions you designate

On test day, after completing the test and viewing your unofficial Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores, you will be asked to designate which score recipients you want to receive your General Test scores. If an institution is not listed, you should ask the test center administrator for the appropriate form to indicate unlisted institutions. Complete the form and turn it in before you leave the test center. The form will not be accepted after you leave the test center.

You will have the option to select the ScoreSelect Most Recent option or ScoreSelect All option for up to four institutions for free. You also can choose not to send any scores at that time.

After test day, you can order additional Score Reports for a fee of $25 per recipient. At that time, you can choose to send scores from your most recent, all or any test administration. See Ordering Additional Score Reports on the GRE website for details.