

|  |
| --- |
| Vice President of GRE & Grad. School Prep  Fall 2012 |

|  |
| --- |
| Psi Chi International Honor Society |
| Graduate School Timeline & GRE Information October 20, 2011 |
| By: Shannon Johnson |

**Timeline**

* Applying to Graduate School Timeline
* Summer Before Year of Expected Graduation
  + Study, study, study for the Graduate Record Exam(GRE)
    - It is recommended that you study at least 3 months before taking the GRE
  + Take regular practice exams
    - There are many GRE preparation books you can buy that come with practice exams or you go directly to the ETS website and download free preparation materials
  + Compile list of potential schools and programs you may wish to apply to
    - The Graduate Study in Psychology or graduateschools.com are some good resources
* September
  + Apply in august or the first weeks of September to take the GRE in October
    - Keep in mind that if you take it early you will still have the option of taking it a second time if you did not get the scores you need
  + Contact the graduate programs that seem to be a good match and ask for additional information
    - Ask about financial aid information
    - Get an application packet if one is available
* October
  + Take the GRE
    - Make sure you request scores be sent to the schools which you plan to apply
  + Plan your application strategy
    - Make sure you pay attention to deadlines and the materials being requested
    - Make sure you have money for the application fees
  + Record goals for each week to achieve while applying
  + Begin contacting those whom you may request letters of recommendation from
    - Most schools will request 3 letters of recommendation
    - Make sure you ask 3 people who you are sure can write you a strong letter
* November
  + Retake the GRE if necessary
    - Some schools have a total minimum requirement score while others have section minimum requirement scores
  + Request undergraduate transcripts to be sent to institutions you are applying to
    - Makes sure you make the request early enough so your transcripts get there before the application deadline.
  + Finalize asking for letters of recommendation
    - Make sure you supply your letter writers with information that they can use to write your letter, such as GPA, GRE scores, transcripts, vita, description of graduate programs, etc.
  + Write essays that you may need to include in application packets
    - Make sure you have your essays critiqued and proofread
* December
  + Finalize financial aid & application forms
  + Carefully prepare each packet and photocopy materials
    - You may consider sending your materials by registered mail
* January/Februray
  + Begin preparing for possible pre-selection interviews
    - Make sure you have money and materials
  + Contact people who wrote letters of recommendation and thank them
    - You may consider sending them a thank you note
  + Follow up to make sure your applications are complete
* March/April
  + Accept or decline offers
  + If you are not accepted, consider other possible options
    - Better your chances to apply again
    - Consider possible job openings now
  + If you are accepted, finalize arrangements for attending
    - Contact the individuals whom wrote letters of rec. to inform them of the outcome

**Here is what you can expect:**

* + A test-taker friendly design
  + New types of questions
  + New score scales

**Test – Taking Experience:**

* + Preview and review capabilities within a section
  + “Mark and Review” feature to tag questions, so you can skip and return later.
  + Ability to change/edit answers within a section
  + Questions that better reflect the skills you’ll need for graduate and business school
  + Answer formats, including tasks such as numeric entry and highlighting a sentence in a passage to answer a question
  + Less reliance on vocabulary out of context, more emphasis on reading – and no antonyms or analogies.
  + Important:
    - No Personal Calculators-One is provide via software
    - Be careful with your scratch paper
    - Can’t go back and change answers
    - First problems in each section are the most important!!!
* Test Structure and Length
  + Duration of 3 hours and 45 minutes
    - 10 minute break; 1 minute break between test sections
    - 6 sections
  + Breakdown of the timing and tasks for each section
    - **Analytical Writing:** One “Analyze an Issue” and one “Analyze an Argument” tasks. 30 minutes per tasks
    - **Verbal Reasoning:** Two sections total. About 20 questions per section. 30 minutes per section.
  + Breakdown of the timing and tasks for each section
    - **Quantitative Reasoning:** Two sections, about 20 questions per section, 35 minutes per section.
    - **Un-scored:** Varies in number of questions and duration.
    - **Research:** Varies in number of questions and duration.

**Verbal Reasoning**

* + **The Verbal Reasoning section measures your ability to:**
    - analyze and draw conclusions from discourse; reason from incomplete data; identify author's assumptions and/or perspective; understand multiple levels of meaning, such as literal, figurative and author's intent
    - select important points; distinguish major from minor or relevant points; summarize text; understand the structure of a text
    - understand the meanings of words, sentences and entire texts; understand relationships among words and among concepts
  + Types of questions:
    - Reading Comprehension
    - Text Completion
    - Sentence Equivalence
* Reading Comprehension:
  + **Multiple-choice Questions** — Select One Answer Choice: These are the traditional multiple-choice questions with five answer choices of which you must select one.
  + **Multiple-choice Questions** — Select One or More Answer Choices: These provide three answer choices and ask you to select all that are correct; one, two or all three of the answer choices may be correct. To gain credit for these questions, you must select all the correct answers, and only those; there is no credit for partially correct answers.
  + **Select-in-Passage:** The question asks you to click on the sentence in the passage that meets a certain description. To answer the question, you choose one of the sentences and click on it; clicking anywhere on a sentence will highlight it.
* Text Completion:
  + Text Completion questions include a passage composed of one to five sentences with one to three blanks. There are three answer choices per blank, or five answer choices if there is a single blank. There is a single correct answer, consisting of one choice for each blank. You receive no credit for partially correct answers.
* Sentence Equivalence:
  + Sentence Equivalence questions consist of a single sentence, one blank, and six answer choices. These questions require you to select two of the answer choices. You receive no credit for partially correct answers.

**Quantitative Reasoning**

* **The Quantitative Reasoning section measures your ability to:**
  + - understand quantitative information
    - interpret and analyze quantitative information
    - solve problems using mathematical models
    - apply basic mathematical skills and elementary mathematical concepts of arithmetic, algebra, geometry, probability and statistics
* Types of questions:
  + **Multiple-choice Questions** — Select One Answer Choice: These questions are multiple-choice questions that ask you to select only one answer choice from a list of five choices.
  + **Multiple-choice Questions** — Select One or More Answer Choices: These questions are multiple-choice questions that ask you to select one or more answer choices from a list of choices. A question may or may not specify the number of choices to select
  + **Numeric Entry Questions**: Questions of this type ask you either to enter the answer as an integer or a decimal in a single answer box or to enter it as a fraction in two separate boxes — one for the numerator and one for the denominator. In the computer-based test, the computer mouse and keyboard are used to enter the answer.
  + **Quantitative Comparison Questions**: Questions of this type ask you to compare two quantities — Quantity A and Quantity B — and then determine which of four statements describes the comparison.
  + **Data Interpretation**: Data Interpretation questions are grouped together and refer to the same table, graph or other data presentation. These questions ask you to interpret or analyze the given data. The types of questions may be Multiple-choice (both types) or Numeric Entry.

**Analytical Writing**

* **The Analytical Writing section measures your ability to:**
  + articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively
  + support ideas with relevant reasons and examples
  + examine claims and accompanying evidence
  + sustain a well-focused, coherent discussion
  + control the elements of standard written English
* Type of questions:
  + **Analyze an Issue Task**: The Analyze an Issue task assesses your ability to think critically about a topic of general interest and to clearly express your thoughts about it in writing. Each issue statement makes a claim that you can discuss from various perspectives and apply to many different situations or conditions. The issue statement is followed by a set of specific instructions. The specific instructions could be one of the following:
    1. Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the statement and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider ways in which the statement might or might not hold true and explain how these considerations shape your position.
    2. Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the recommendation and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, describe specific circumstances in which adopting the recommendation would or would not be advantageous and explain how these examples shape your position.
    3. Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim. In developing and supporting your position, be sure to address the most compelling reasons or examples that could be used to challenge your position.
    4. Write a response in which you discuss which view more closely aligns with your own position and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should address both of the views presented above.
    5. Write a response in which you discuss the extent to which you agree or disagree with the claim **AND** the reason on which that claim is based.
    6. Write a response in which you discuss your views on the policy above and explain your reasoning for the position you take. In developing and supporting your position, you should consider the possible consequences of implementing the policy and explain how these consequences shape your position.
  + **Analyze an Argument Task**: The Analyze an Argument task assesses your ability to understand, analyze and evaluate arguments and to clearly convey your evaluation in writing. You are presented with a brief passage in which the author makes a case for some course of action or interpretation of events by presenting claims backed by reasons and evidence. Your task is to discuss the logical soundness of the author's case according to the specific instructions by critically examining the line of reasoning and the use of evidence. The specific instructions could be one of the following:
    1. Write a response in which you discuss what specific evidence is needed to evaluate the argument and explain how the evidence would weaken or strengthen the argument.
    2. Write a response in which you examine the stated and/or unstated assumptions of the argument. Be sure to explain how the argument depends on these assumptions and what the implications are if the assumptions prove unwarranted.
    3. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the recommendation and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
    4. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the advice and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the advice.
    5. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered to decide whether the recommendation is likely to have the predicted result. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the recommendation.
    6. Write a response in which you discuss what questions would need to be answered in order to decide whether the prediction and the argument on which it is based are reasonable. Be sure to explain how the answers to these questions would help to evaluate the prediction.
    7. Write a response in which you discuss one or more alternative explanations that could rival the proposed explanation and explain how your explanation(s) can plausibly account for the facts presented in the argument.

**Verbal Reasoning Scores**

* Verbal reasoning scores will be reported on a new 130-170score scale, in 1-point increments (versus 200-800 in 10-point increments).

**Quantitative Reasoning Scores**

* Quantitative reasoning scores will be reported on a new 130-170 score scale, in 1-point increments (versus 200-800 in 10-point increments).

**Analytical Writing Scores**

* Analytical writing scores will continue to be reported on the same 0-6 score level, in half-point increments.

**Analytical Writing: Score Level Descriptions**

Although the GRE Analytical Writing measure contains two discrete analytical writing tasks, a single combined score is reported because it is more reliable than is a score for either task alone. The reported score, the average of the scores for the two tasks, ranges from 0 to 6, in half-point increments.

* Score Levels 6 and 5.5
* Sustains insightful, in-depth analysis of complex ideas; develops and supports main points with logically compelling reasons and/or highly persuasive examples; is well focused and well organized; skillfully uses sentence variety and precise vocabulary to convey meaning effectively; demonstrates superior facility with sentence structure and language usage, but may have minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.
* Score Levels 5 and 4.5
  + Provides generally thoughtful analysis of complex ideas; develops and supports main points with logically sound reasons and/or well-chosen examples; is generally focused and well organized; uses sentence variety and vocabulary to convey meaning clearly; demonstrates good control of sentence structure and language usage, but may have minor errors that do not interfere with meaning.
* Score Levels 4 and 3.5
  + Provides competent analysis of complex ideas; develops and supports main points with relevant reasons and/or examples; is adequately organized; conveys meaning with reasonable clarity; demonstrates satisfactory control of sentence structure and language usage, but may have some errors that affect clarity.
* Score Levels 3 and 2.5
  + Displays some competence in analytical writing skills, although the writing is flawed in at least one of the following ways: limited analysis or development; weak organization; weak control of sentence structure or language usage, with errors that often result in vagueness or lack of clarity.
* Score Levels 2 and 1.5
  + Displays serious weaknesses in analytical writing, the writing is seriously flawed in at least one of the following ways: serious lack of analysis or development; lack of organization; serious and frequent problems in sentence structure or language usage, with errors that obscure meaning.
* Score Levels 1 and .5
  + Displays fundamental deficiencies in analytical writing. The writing is fundamentally flawed in at least one of the following ways: content that is extremely confusing or mostly irrelevant to the assigned tasks; little or no development; severe and pervasive errors that result in incoherence.
* Score Level 0
  + The examinee’s analytical writing skills cannot be evaluated because the response do not address any part of the assigned tasks, are merely attempts to copy the assignments, are in a foreign language or display only indecipherable text.
* Score NS
  + The examinee produced no text whatsoever.

**Additional Score Reports (ASRs)**

* Web
  + For faster processing, order additional score reports online. You will need to create or have a My GRE account to use this service.
  + Credit/debit card only will be accepted.
  + Score reports will be mailed to you and to your designated institutions approximately five business days after your request.
* Mail or Fax
  + Download and complete the Additional Score Report Request Form (PDF).
  + Mail it with the fee to the address on the form.
  + Requests are processed within 10 business days after receipt.
  + Faxed requests are accepted if you pay by credit/debit card. The fax number is **1-610-290-8975**.
  + Once a request and fee is mailed or faxed, with a payment, it cannot be canceled, changed or refunded.
* Phone
  + **1-609-771-7290** or **1-888-473-7267**
  + Before you call, have the following information ready;
    - Registration number, Social Security number or confirmation number
    - Test date
    - Date of birth
    - Institution code(s) and department code(s)

**Registration Process**

* Web
  + Visit [www.gre.org](http://www.gre.org) to register online
* Phone
  + Call the test center directly or Prometric Candidate Services Call Center Monday through Friday, 8 a.m. – 7:45 p.m. Eastern Time, excluding U.S. holidays, at **1-443-751-4820** or **1-800-GRE-CALL (1-800-473-2255)**
* Mail
  + Download and complete the *Authorization Voucher Request Form* found in the GRE Bulletin.
  + Mail the appropriate payment and voucher request form to the address printed on the voucher, allowing up to four weeks for processing and mail delivery.
  + When you receive your voucher, call to schedule an appointment.
    - *If you need help please come by and see me!*

**Rescheduling or Canceling Your Test Appointment**

* You must reschedule or cancel your test no later than three full days before your appointment or your test fee will be forfeited.
* If you cancel your test no later than three full days prior to your test date, you will receive a refund equivalent to half of the original test fee.
* Reschedule or cancel online at [**www.prometric.com**](http://www.prometric.com)**, or call 1-443-751-4820, 1-800-GRE-CALL (1-800-473-2255)** or contact the appropriate Regional Registration Center.
* Mailed requests must be received no later than three full days prior to your scheduled test date.
* The rescheduling fee is US $50.
* You cannot transfer to the next testing year.

**GRE Fess and Payment**

* $160 Test – U.S., U.S. Territories, and Puerto Rico
* $25 Late Registration Fee
* $50 Changing Your Test Center
* $23 Additional Score Reports (ASR) Requests- Per recipients

**Preferred Forms of Payment**

* Credit/debit Card (American Express®, Discover®, JCB®, MasterCard®, or VISA®). Note: Any debit/check card branded with one of the five accepted credit card logos can be processed. ETS reserves the right to add or remove online payment methods at its own discretion and without notice.
* Money Order/Certified Check/Voucher

**GRE Fee Reduction Program**

ETS offers a limited number of GRE Fee Reduction Certificates on a first-come, first- served, basis that are available for college seniors and unenrolled college graduates who meet eligibility requirements. A Fee Reduction Program is limited to one time only. Thereafter, the full test fee will be charged for additional tests for which the candidate registers. Individuals meeting the eligibility requirements will be required to pay 50 percent of the full test fee. The reduced fee is $75 for the General Test and $65 for a subject test.

To be eligible, you must be a U.S. citizen or resident alien who is a college senior or an unenrolled college graduate.

College seniors must be:

* Receiving financial aid through an undergraduate college in the United States, U.S. Territories or Puerto Rico
* A dependent, who has an institutional student information report that shows a parental contribution of not more than $1,400 for the senior year
* Or self-supporting and have an institutional student information report that shows a contribution of not more than $1,800 for the senior year.

Unenrolled college graduates must:

* Have applied for financial aid
* And have an institutional student information report that indicates self-supporting status and a contribution of not more than $1,800.

To apply for a GRE Fee Reduction Certificate:

* Contact your financial aid office to see if you qualify.
* Once your eligibility is established, the financial aid office will issue you a Fee Reduction Certificate and a copy of your institutional student information report. Follow the instructions on the voucher. Allow up to three weeks for processing and mail delivery.

**Test Preparation Materials**

* Please visit our website for free test preparation Materials
  + http://sfasupsichichapter.weebly.com/index.html
* GRE Study guide books available in the Psi Chi Office (RM 117)
  + - Check out for 2 weeks
      * Email Notification
      * Reminder Email
    - Office Hours: MW 10:00 am to 11:00 am
      * Conflict in your schedule? Email me: shannonjohnsonh@aol.com