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**GRE VS  
GMAT**



**Got questions? Contact us seven days a week at  
212-721-7400 or [studentservices@manhattanprep.com](mailto:studentservices@manhattanprep.com)**

## WHAT ARE THE GRE AND GMAT?

With over 550,000 test takers a year, the GRE is the most widely accepted graduate school test in the world. You can use it to apply for Masters and PhD programs in everything from poetry, to psychology, to mechanical engineering, and more.

The GMAT is a standardized exam that has been the main business school admissions test for the past 60 years.

However, most top-ranked MBA programs (such as Harvard Business School, Wharton, Kellogg, and Sloan) now accept the GRE as a GMAT alternative. The GRE is now a flexible graduate test option for those applying to both business schools and other graduate programs.

GRE		GMAT	
Admissions test for variety of Masters and PhD programs as well as many business schools.		Admissions test for business school.	
Exam Delivery			
Section adaptive exam: For both the verbal and quant portions of the test you will take two separate sections. Your performance on the first section of each type will determine the difficulty level of the second section that you receive.		Computer adaptive exam: On each section, questions get harder as you get more correct, easier as you get more incorrect.	
Math Content			
Arithmetic Algebra	Geometry Data Analysis	Arithmetic Algebra	Geometry Data Analysis
Verbal Content			
Vocabulary Reading		Grammar Critical Reasoning Reading	

## FAQS

### Do business schools treat the GRE and GMAT differently?

By and large, no. Admissions officers have said that there is no benefit to taking one test over the other. Business schools have chosen to accept the GRE to attract students from a larger variety of backgrounds, and treat it as a GMAT equivalent.

### Do the GRE and GMAT cover different content?

While the problem types are different, the math content covered on the tests is the same (arithmetic, algebra, geometry, and data analysis). These categories are very broad. Things NOT included are: trigonometry, calculus, and advanced algebra.

The verbal section is where the big differences are seen. While both tests cover reading comprehension, the other verbal content is entirely different. The GMAT verbal section focuses on grammar and logic, and the GRE focuses on vocabulary. This difference often influences a student's decision of which exam to take. Students who prefer grammar will gravitate to the GMAT, while students with large vocabularies will often pick the GRE.

### Is one test easier than the other?

Neither test is inherently easier, but the verbal sections are very different and cater to different groups of students, as explained above. Also, some people find the GRE Quant section preferable to the GMAT Quant section because you are able to use a calculator on the GRE (though some experts consider this feature a distraction). In the end, either test could be the right choice, depending on your educational plans and academic strengths.

### So how do I choose between the two?

Unfortunately there is no one-size-fits-all answer. Try some sample problems from each test to see which you are more comfortable with. If you have time, the best thing to do is try a full practice test of each and see which one you do better on. We offer free practice tests for both exams at [manhattanprep.com](http://manhattanprep.com). In the end, it is a personal decision, and one we are happy to help with.

**Still have questions? Give us a call at 212-721-7400.**