Score Architect

RESEARCH REPORT

# GRE® or GMAT™ for Business School, and the GRE for Law School

What the test makers, the accreditor and the schools themselves publish about test choice: format, fees, acceptance, class profiles and the rule that lets U.S. law schools accept the GRE.

Period covered: test formats, fees and school policies as published on the pages we retrieved in November 2026; MBA class profiles for the Classes of 2027 and 2028; GMAT testing years 2021 through 2025 and GRE testing years 2020-21 through 2024-25; American Bar Association Standards for 2026-2027. One ETS table for MBA aspirants covers July 2020 to June 2023 and is marked as dated.

Free resource from www.scorearchitect.com/gre. Prepared 13 November 2026.

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# Executive summary

Applicants to business school can usually choose between the GRE® General Test and the GMAT exam, and applicants to many U.S. law schools can choose between the GRE and the LSAT. This report sets out what the organizations that own the tests, the body that accredits U.S. law schools, and a sample of schools publish on the question. It does not convert scores between tests and it does not say which test is easier, because none of the sources supports either claim.

**1,300+**
business programs accept the GRE, by the count ETS publishes; GMAC describes the GMAT as trusted by over 7,700 programs and 2,400 business schools[1,2]

**44%**
of the Harvard Business School MBA Class of 2027 submitted the GRE; 34% submitted the GMAT and 28% the GMAT 10th edition[3]

**59%**
of the Tuck MBA Class of 2028 submitted the GRE, against 27% for the GMAT and 6% for the GMAT 10th Edition[4]

**93,196**
GMAT exams taken worldwide in testing year 2025, down from 161,377 in testing year 2021[5]

**130+**
American Bar Association approved law schools accept the GRE, by the count on the ETS law school page; the ABA lists 198 approved J.D. institutions and programs[6,7]

**$249**
GRE registration fee in most of the world, against US$275 or US$300 for the GMAT and $253 for the LSAT[8,9,10]

- **Schools that publish a view say they have no preference.** Harvard Business School and Wharton both state on their class profile pages that they have no minimum score and no preference between the GRE and the GMAT[3,11].
- **GRE submitters are a large share of some classes.** 44% of the Harvard Business School Class of 2027 and 59% of the Tuck Class of 2028 submitted the GRE. At Tuck that is more than the two GMAT editions combined. At NYU Stern, the GMAT (36%) was ahead of the GRE (26%) in the Class of 2028[3,4,12].
- **There is no published conversion.** ETS states that it does not publish a GRE to GMAT score conversion table, and ETS guidance to admissions offices says not to compare percentile ranks across tests[1,13].
- **U.S. law schools may accept the GRE without proving its validity themselves.** The Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar voted in November 2021 to allow GRE scores in lieu of LSAT scores under Standard 503[14].
- **For law school, an existing LSAT score usually cannot be hidden.** Yale, Stanford and Columbia each state that an applicant's LSAT scores must be reported or take precedence, even where the GRE is accepted[15,16,17].

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How to read this report. Statements about a test come from the organization that owns it, and statements about a school come from that school's own page. Where a test maker describes a competing test, we say whose description it is. Fees and policies change; each is dated. Score Architect is independent of ETS, GMAC, LSAC, the American Bar Association and every school cited.

## 1. Three tests side by side

The GRE General Test is owned by ETS, the GMAT exam by the Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) and the LSAT by the Law School Admission Council (LSAC). The table below uses only what each organization publishes about its own test.

| | GRE GENERAL TEST | GMAT EXAM | LSAT |
|---|---|---|---|
| Owner | ETS | Graduate Management Admission Council (GMAC) | Law School Admission Council (LSAC) |
| Scored sections | Analytical Writing, Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning | Quantitative Reasoning, Verbal Reasoning, Data Insights | Three scored multiple-choice sections (Reading Comprehension and Logical Reasoning question types) |
| Writing | One 30-minute essay, scored 0 to 6 | None in the exam itself | LSAT Argumentative Writing, unscored, taken separately online; 50 minutes in total |
| Testing time | About 1 hour and 58 minutes | 2 hours and 15 minutes, plus one optional 10-minute break | Four 35-minute sections, one of them unscored |
| Score scale | 130 to 170 for Verbal Reasoning and for Quantitative Reasoning; 0 to 6 for Analytical Writing | Total Score from 205 to 805 | 120 to 180 |
| Registration fee | $249 in most of the world; $237.86 in China | US$275 in person; US$300 online | $253 for the August 2026 to June 2027 testing year |
| Where you take it | At home or in a test center, year-round | In person or online | In a test center for almost all test takers from August 2026, with limited exceptions |
| Repeat testing | Once every 21 days, up to 5 times in any 12-month period | Up to five times in a rolling 12-month period | Not stated on the pages we retrieved |
| Score validity | 5 years | Five years | Reportable for up to five testing years after the testing year in which it is earned |

Format, fees and policies as published by each test maker. GRE fees are effective August 1, 2026; the GMAT fee is from a GMAC page dated July 16, 2026. Source: ETS, GRE General Test structure (web page), https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/test-structure.html; ETS, GRE Guide to the Use of Scores, 2026-27, https://www.ets.org/content/dam/ets-org/pdfs/gre/gre-guide-to-the-use-of-scores.pdf; ETS, GRE General Test fees (web page), https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/fees.html; ETS, GRE General Test for business school (web page for test takers), https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/admissions-resources/business-school.html; ETS, GRE home page, https://www.ets.org/gre.html; Graduate Management Admission Council, mba.com: GMAT exam structure, https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat-exam/about/exam-structure; Graduate Management Admission Council, mba.com: Understanding your GMAT score, https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat-exam/scores/understanding-your-score; Graduate Management Admission Council, What is the GMAT exam (web page), https://www.gmac.com/resources/learners/how-to-apply/exams-preparation/what-is-the-gmat-exam-what-should-you-know; Law School Admission Council, Types of LSAT questions, https://www.lsac.org/lsat/about/types-lsat-questions; Law School Admission Council, LSAT scoring, https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-scoring; Law School Admission Council, LSAT and CAS fees, https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates/lsat-cas-fees; Law School Admission Council, LSAT remote testing distance exceptions, https://www.lsac.org/lsat/about/lsat-remote-testing-distance-exceptions. Accessed 13 November 2026.[18,19,8,1,20,21,22,9,23,24,10,25]

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**Registration fee for one sitting, in U.S. dollars, as published by each test maker**




The GRE fee is $237.86 in China. The LSAT fee includes LSAT Argumentative Writing. Law school applicants also pay LSAC $219 for the Credential Assembly Service and $45 for each law school report; extra GRE score reports cost $40 per recipient. Source: ETS, GRE General Test fees (web page), https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/register/fees.html; Graduate Management Admission Council, What is the GMAT exam (web page), https://www.gmac.com/resources/learners/how-to-apply/exams-preparation/what-is-the-gmat-exam-what-should-you-know; Law School Admission Council, LSAT and CAS fees, https://www.lsac.org/lsat/lsat-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates/lsat-cas-fees. Accessed 13 November 2026.[8,9,10]

The registration fee is only part of the cost of applying. ETS charges $40 for each additional score report. LSAC charges $219 for its Credential Assembly Service (CAS) and $45 for each law school report, and states that a separate report is required for each application[8,10]. Harvard Law School and Columbia Law School both state that applicants must use LSAC and the CAS whichever test they take, so a law school applicant who chooses the GRE still pays LSAC for the CAS and the reports[26,17]. ETS also runs a Fee Reduction Program under which eligible individuals pay $100 to register for the GRE General Test[8].

## 2. GRE and GMAT: format and scoring

| GRE GENERAL TEST | QUESTIONS | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| Analytical Writing | One "Analyze an Issue" task | 30 minutes |
| Verbal Reasoning (two sections) | 12 and 15 | 18 and 23 minutes |
| Quantitative Reasoning (two sections) | 12 and 15 | 21 and 26 minutes |

GRE General Test structure for tests taken on or after September 22, 2023. Source: ETS, GRE General Test structure (web page), https://www.ets.org/gre/test-takers/general-test/prepare/test-structure.html. Accessed 13 November 2026.[18]

| GMAT EXAM | QUESTIONS | TIME |
|---|---|---|
| Quantitative Reasoning | 21 | 45 minutes |
| Verbal Reasoning | 23 | 45 minutes |
| Data Insights | 20 | 45 minutes |

GMAT exam structure. Source: Graduate Management Admission Council, mba.com: GMAT exam structure, https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat-exam/about/exam-structure. Accessed 13 November 2026.[21]

**Length.** The GRE takes about 1 hour and 58 minutes across five sections. The two Verbal Reasoning sections have 27 questions in 41 minutes, and the two Quantitative Reasoning sections have 27 questions in 47 minutes (our arithmetic from the ETS table), after a 30-minute essay that always comes first[18]. The GMAT is 2 hours and 15 minutes long, with 64 questions in three 45-minute sections and one optional 10-minute break[21].

**Content.** Both tests have a Verbal Reasoning and a Quantitative Reasoning section. The GRE adds Analytical Writing; the GMAT adds Data Insights and has no essay in the exam[18,21]. ETS says that some schools are beginning to require a separate 30-minute GMAC writing assessment at an additional $30 cost[1]. That is a statement by ETS about a GMAC product, and we did not find the assessment described on the GMAC pages we retrieved, so confirm it with the school.

**Scores.** The GRE reports three separate scores and no total: 130 to 170 for Verbal Reasoning, 130 to 170 for Quantitative Reasoning, and 0 to 6 for Analytical Writing[19]. The GMAT reports a Total Score from 205 to 805 in which the three sections are weighted equally, as well as a score for each section[22]. This

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difference matters when reading class profiles: a school can publish one GMAT number, but has to publish two or three for the GRE.

**Navigation.** On the GMAT, test takers can answer the three sections in any order, and at the end of each section can review as many questions as they like and edit up to three answers[21]. On the GRE, the Analytical Writing section is always first and the other sections may appear in any order[18].

**Results and repeat testing.** ETS says official GRE scores are sent within 8 to 10 days[1]. GMAC says a detailed Official Score Report arrives within 3 to 5 days of the exam, and may occasionally take longer[21]. The GRE can be taken once every 21 days, up to 5 times in any 12-month period, and the GMAT up to five times in a rolling 12-month period. Scores on both are valid for five years[20,9].

**Two editions of the GMAT are still in circulation**

Class profiles for the Classes of 2027 and 2028 report two kinds of GMAT score, because scores are valid for five years and the exam changed. GMAC states that the current exam has a Total Score range of 205 to 805 and the previous edition, the GMAT (10th Edition), a range of 200 to 800, and that comparing total or section scores between the two "is not appropriate, accurate, or a meaningful comparison of performance"[22]. When a school lists "GMAT" and "GMAT 10th edition" separately, treat them as different scales.

## 3. Which programs accept which test

Each test maker publishes its own count of the programs that use its test. The counts are not audited by a third party and are not built the same way, so they show scale, not a ranking.

- **GRE.** ETS says the GRE is accepted by 1,300+ business programs, and by 20,000+ graduate, business and law programs worldwide[1,20].
- **GMAT.** GMAC describes the GMAT as "Trusted by over 7,700 programs and 2,400 business schools around the world"[2]. Its report for testing year 2025 gives a slightly different figure: used by more than 7,900 graduate programs worldwide[5].
- **LSAT.** LSAC describes the LSAT as "the only test accepted by all ABA-approved law schools"[27]. The American Bar Association (ABA) lists 198 institutions and programs approved to confer the J.D. degree[7].

The practical point for a business school applicant is that the GRE keeps other options open. ETS notes that a GRE score is accepted by MBA programs as well as law, PhD and policy programs, while it describes the GMAT as accepted primarily by business schools[1]. That description comes from ETS. At least one law school in our sample, Georgetown, also accepts the GMAT for its J.D. program[28].

Acceptance is decided program by program. ETS itself advises applicants to confirm acceptance policies with each school before applying, and notes that policies on submitting both tests vary by school[1].

## 4. What business schools say about preference

Two of the schools whose pages we retrieved address the question directly, in almost the same words.

- **Harvard Business School:** "There is no minimum GMAT or GRE to apply and we do not have a preference towards a particular test."[3]

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- **The Wharton School:** "There is no minimum GMAT or GRE score requirement to apply to the Wharton MBA program, and we don't have a preference for one test over another."[11]

ETS, for its part, says that most programs that accept both tests will evaluate whichever score or scores an applicant submits[1]. That is a general statement by a test maker, not a survey of schools. We found no source in this exercise that measures how admissions committees weigh one test against the other, and we make no claim about it.

The other three business school pages we retrieved (Tuck, NYU Stern and Yale School of Management) report which tests their students submitted but, in the text we retrieved, do not make a statement about preference. The absence of a statement on a class profile page is not evidence of a preference either way.

## 5. What published class profiles show

A class profile describes the students who enrolled. It is the only place where a school-specific GRE number should come from. The table shows every GRE figure that appeared in the text of the five class profile pages we retrieved.

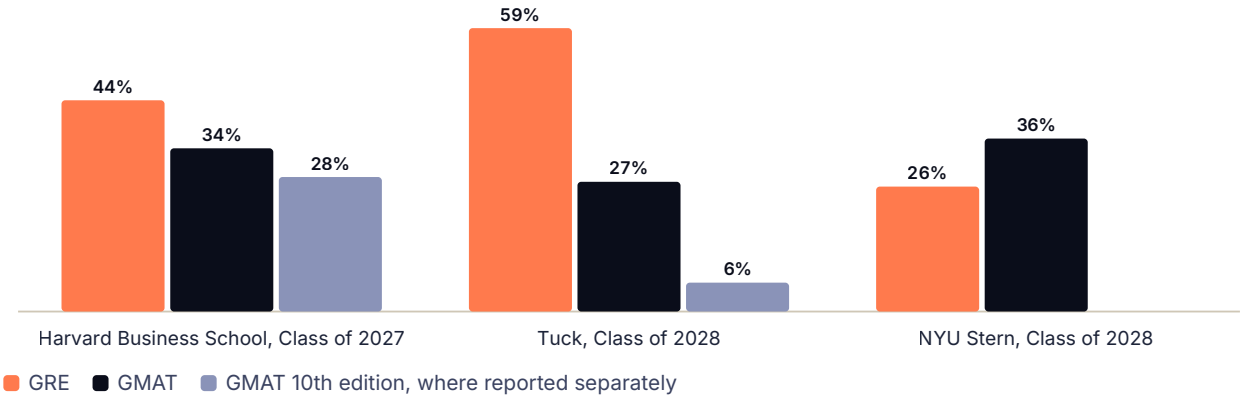
| SCHOOL AND CLASS (SOURCE: THE SCHOOL'S OWN CLASS PROFILE) | SHARE SUBMITTING GRE | SHARE SUBMITTING GMAT | GRE VERBAL REASONING | GRE QUANTITATIVE REASONING |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| Harvard Business School, Class of 2027[3] | 44% | 34%, plus 28% GMAT 10th edition | Median 164; middle 80% 158 to 168 | Median 164; middle 80% 159 to 169 |
| Tuck School of Business, Class of 2028[4] | 59% | 27%, plus 6% GMAT 10th Edition | Average 161; middle 80% 155 to 166 | Average 161; middle 80% 156 to 167 |
| NYU Stern, full-time MBA Class of 2028[12] | 26% | 36% | Average 163; 80% range 158 to 169 | Average 164; 80% range 160 to 170 |
| Yale School of Management, Class of 2027[29] | 47% | Not in the retrieved text | Not in the retrieved text | Not in the retrieved text |

Enrolled students, as published by each school. Harvard Business School and Tuck note that some students submitted more than one test, so shares can add to more than 100%. NYU Stern also reports 5% Executive Assessment, 22% test waiver, 7% NYU test waiver and 4% MCAT, LSAT or DAT. Source: Harvard Business School, MBA class profile, https://www.hbs.edu/mba/admissions/class-profile/Pages/default.aspx; Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, MBA class profile, https://tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/class-profile; NYU Stern School of Business, full-time MBA class profile, https://www.stern.nyu.edu/programs-admissions/full-time-mba/community/class-profile; Yale School of Management, MBA class profile, https://som.yale.edu/programs/mba/admissions/class-profile. Accessed 13 November 2026.[3,4,12,29]

Three things stand out. First, GRE submitters are a large part of these classes: 44% at Harvard Business School, 47% at Yale School of Management and 59% at Tuck, where the two GMAT editions together come to at most 33% by our arithmetic[3,29,4]. Harvard Business School reports its two GMAT editions separately (34% and 28%) and notes that some students submitted more than one test, so its figures do not show whether GRE or GMAT submitters were the larger group. Second, the picture is not uniform. At NYU Stern the GMAT share (36%) is larger than the GRE share (26%), and 22% of the class enrolled with a test waiver[12]. Third, the schools do not report in the same way: Harvard Business School gives medians, while Tuck and NYU Stern give averages, so the central figures should not be lined up as if they were the same statistic.

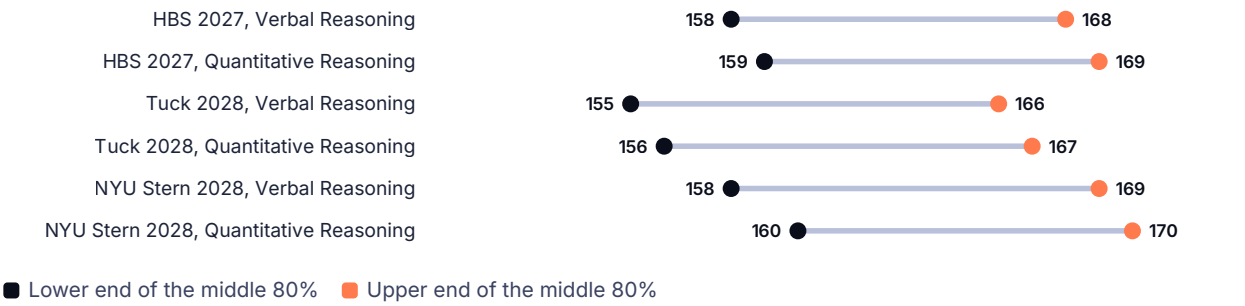
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**Share of the entering MBA class that submitted each test, from each school's class profile**




Harvard Business School and Tuck report the current GMAT and the GMAT 10th edition separately; NYU Stern reports one GMAT share. Classes differ by year and the schools define their categories differently. Source: Harvard Business School, MBA class profile, https://www.hbs.edu/mba/admissions/class-profile/Pages/default.aspx; Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, MBA class profile, https://tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/class-profile; NYU Stern School of Business, full-time MBA class profile, https://www.stern.nyu.edu/programs-admissions/full-time-mba/community/class-profile. Accessed 13 November 2026.[3,4,12]

**GRE scores of enrolled MBA students: middle 80% of the class, from each school's class profile**




Each line runs from the bottom to the top of the middle 80% of enrolled students, so one student in ten scored below the lower figure and one in ten above the upper figure. NYU Stern labels its figures "80% Range". Source: Harvard Business School, MBA class profile, https://www.hbs.edu/mba/admissions/class-profile/Pages/default.aspx; Tuck School of Business at Dartmouth, MBA class profile, https://tuck.dartmouth.edu/admissions/class-profile; NYU Stern School of Business, full-time MBA class profile, https://www.stern.nyu.edu/programs-admissions/full-time-mba/community/class-profile. Accessed 13 November 2026.[3,4,12]

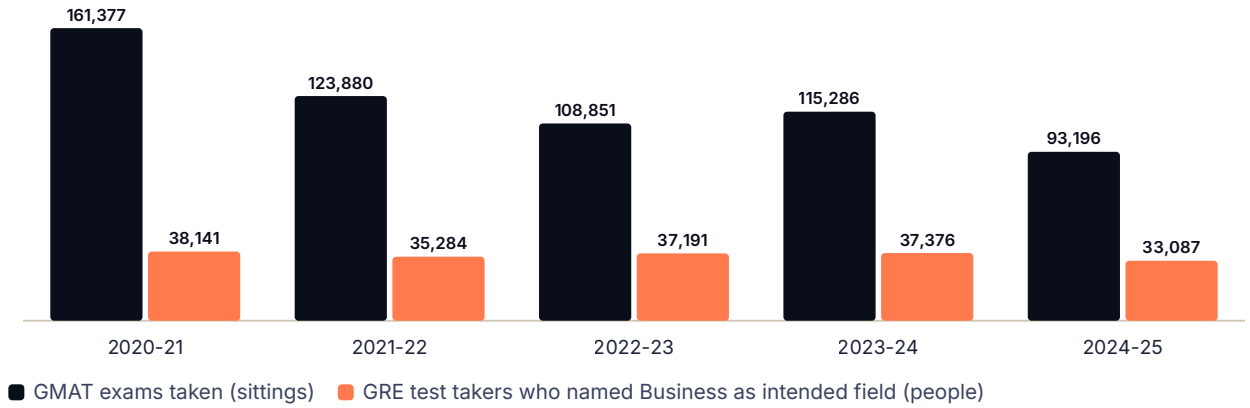
The ranges are more useful than the midpoints. At Tuck, the middle 80% of GRE Verbal Reasoning scores ran from 155 to 166 and Quantitative Reasoning from 156 to 167. At NYU Stern, the full range of enrolled students ran from 153 to 170 on Verbal Reasoning and from 152 to 170 on Quantitative Reasoning[4,12]. These are descriptions of who enrolled in one year. They are not cutoffs, and they say nothing about applicants who were not admitted.

## 6. How many people take each test

ETS and GMAC both report volumes by testing year, and both define the testing year as July 1 to June 30[30,5]. GMAC labels the year by its end (TY2025 is July 1, 2024, to June 30, 2025), which is the year ETS calls 2024-25. The two organizations do not count the same thing: GMAC publishes exams taken and unique candidates, while ETS counts each person once per testing year.

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**GMAT exams taken and GRE test takers intending Business, by testing year**




| TESTING YEAR | GMAT EXAMS TAKEN | GRE TEST TAKERS: ALL | GRE TEST TAKERS: INTENDING BUSINESS | GRE TEST TAKERS: INTENDING LAW |
|---|---|---|---|---|
| 2020-21 | 161,377 | 366,686 | 38,141 | 1,819 |
| 2021-22 | 123,880 | 341,574 | 35,284 | 1,375 |
| 2022-23 | 108,851 | 319,101 | 37,191 | 1,647 |
| 2023-24 | 115,286 | 256,215 | 37,376 | 1,873 |
| 2024-25 | 93,196 | 206,004 | 33,087 | 1,773 |

GMAT: total exams by testing year, TY2021 to TY2025. GRE: test takers with valid scores, and those who named Business or Law as their intended graduate major field (Snapshot Table 2.6). GMAT figures are sittings; GRE figures are people. Source: Graduate Management Admission Council, GMAT Geographic Trend Report, Testing Year 2025, https://www.gmac.com/-/media/files/gmat-geographic-trend-report-testing-year-2025-pdfcleaned.pdf; ETS, A Snapshot of the Individuals Who Took the GRE General Test, July 2020 to June 2025, https://www.ets.org/pdfs/gre/snapshot.pdf. Accessed 13 November 2026.[5,30]

**GMAT.** In testing year 2025, 65,710 unique candidates sat for 93,196 GMAT exams, against 107,455 candidates and 161,377 exams in testing year 2021, declines that GMAC gives as 39% and 42%. Between testing years 2024 and 2025 alone, candidates fell from 78,429 to 65,710 (-16%) and exams from 115,286 to 93,196 (-19%). GMAC attributes a significant portion of the earlier drop, from testing year 2021 to 2022, to the impact of COVID-19 on test center availability, candidate mobility and uncertainty about graduate programs[5].

**GRE.** The number of GRE test takers who named Business as their intended field moved much less: 38,141 in 2020-21 and 33,087 in 2024-25. Because total GRE volume fell faster, from 366,686 to 206,004, intended Business majors rose from 10% to 16% of all GRE test takers[30]. In 2024-25, 12,044 test takers (6%) named an MBA as their degree objective; 44% of test takers gave no objective, so that figure understates the true number by an unknown amount[30].

**Where GMAT scores go.** In testing year 2025, 38,511 GMAT examinees sent 135,901 score reports. MBA programs received 58 percent of them, down slightly from 60 percent in testing year 2021; business master's programs received 32 percent and other programs 10 percent. Citizens of the United States accounted for 21 percent of GMAT exams, down from 26 percent, while the share taken by citizens of Central and South Asian countries rose from 18 to 27 percent[5].

These series do not show how many business school applicants chose one test over the other. A GRE test taker who names Business may apply elsewhere, and a GMAT exam is a sitting, not an applicant. The class profiles in section 5 are the only direct evidence here of what enrolled students submitted.

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## 7. Why scores cannot be converted

ETS states plainly: "ETS does not publish a GRE-GMAT score conversion table." It adds that because the two tests serve different applicant populations, direct comparisons are not straightforward, and that business schools evaluate GRE scores using their own frameworks[1]. ETS guidance for admissions offices makes the same point about percentiles: do not use percentile ranks to compare applicants across different tests, such as the GRE with the GMAT or the LSAT[13].

The reason is that a percentile describes a position within one group of test takers. The groups differ. Among GRE test takers in 2024-25, those who named an MBA as their degree objective had mean scores of 154.8 on Verbal Reasoning, 155.9 on Quantitative Reasoning and 3.9 on Analytical Writing, while those who named Business as their intended field had means of 153.4, 159.6 and 3.6[30]. Even inside one test, two reasonable definitions of "business applicants" give different averages.

ETS also publishes interpretive data for test takers with an MBA objective. The version on the ETS site when we accessed it covers people who tested between July 1, 2020, and June 30, 2023: 34,765 Verbal Reasoning scores with a mean of 153.57 and 34,788 Quantitative Reasoning scores with a mean of 155.59. It predates the shorter test and should be read as dated[31].

**What to use instead of a conversion**

ETS points applicants to "The most useful benchmark is the median GRE scores published in your target schools' class profiles"[1]. In practice that means comparing your GRE section scores with the GRE ranges a school publishes for its enrolled class, as in section 5, and not translating them into a GMAT number first. Score Architect does not publish a conversion table and does not compute percentiles.

## 8. The GRE for law school: the rule

Law schools in the United States that want American Bar Association approval follow the ABA Standards and Rules of Procedure for Approval of Law Schools. The admission test is governed by Standard 503. In the 2026-2027 Standards it reads, in part: "A law school shall require each applicant for admission as a first-year J.D. degree student to take a valid and reliable admission test to assist the school and the applicant in assessing the applicant's capability of satisfactorily completing the school's program of legal education."[32]

The Standard does not name a test. Interpretation 503-1 adds that a school using a test other than the LSAT must demonstrate that the other test is valid and reliable, and Interpretation 503-2 says the Standard does not prescribe the weight a school should give to a score[32].

The GRE has a specific status under that rule. The ABA Managing Director's guidance memo on Standard 503, revised in February 2025, states that the requirement to establish validity "does not apply to the Graduate Record Examination (GRE)", and records that at its November 2021 meeting the Council of the ABA Section of Legal Education and Admissions to the Bar voted to allow schools to accept GRE scores from applicants in lieu of an LSAT score under Standard 503. For any other test, the memo says the burden is on the law school to demonstrate validity and reliability[14].

Two consequences follow for applicants.

- **A test is still required.** Harvard Law School cites Standard 503 as the reason it offers no testing waivers: a standardized test score, either the LSAT or the GRE, is a required part of its application[26].

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- **Permission is not adoption.** The ABA decision allows a school to accept the GRE; each school decides whether to do so. ETS says 130+ ABA approved law schools accept the GRE on its law school page and 100+ ABA-accredited J.D. programs on its home page, while LSAC describes the LSAT as the only test accepted by all ABA-approved law schools[6,20,27]. The ETS list of accepting schools marks at least one school as accepting the GRE for select students only, and includes one school outside the United States, Peking University School of Transnational Law[33].

Jurisdiction. Standard 503 is an accreditation rule for J.D. programs in the United States. It is not a statute and it does not govern legal education or admission to practice elsewhere. Routes into the legal profession in other jurisdictions, including European Union member states and the United Arab Emirates, are set by their own authorities and are not covered by any source in this report. This section is general information, not legal advice.

## 9. The GRE and the LSAT in practice

**Format.** The LSAT has two parts. The first is four 35-minute multiple-choice sections, which is 140 minutes of testing by our arithmetic; three sections are scored and one is not. The question types are Reading Comprehension and Logical Reasoning. The second part is LSAT Argumentative Writing, an unscored writing sample administered separately online, for which test takers have 50 minutes in total. Scores are reported on a scale from 120 to 180[23,24]. LSAC has announced that the test will look a little different starting with the August 2027 administration while testing the same skills[23]. The GRE, by contrast, includes a Quantitative Reasoning measure and a scored essay, and has no Logical Reasoning section[18].

**Where the test is taken.** Starting with the August 2026 LSAT, the multiple-choice portion is moving toward in-center testing for almost all test takers. LSAC lists limited exceptions for 2026-2027, including certain disability-related accommodations and domestic test takers who are more than 180 miles or three hours' driving distance from a test center with available capacity[25]. ETS offers the GRE at home or in a test center, year-round[1].

**Score reporting.** ETS states that with the LSAT all scores are reported automatically, while GRE test takers choose which scores to send[6]. That advantage is narrower than it sounds for law school: Harvard and Columbia both require GRE applicants to report every valid GRE score from the previous five years, and Columbia states that candidates applying with the GRE may not use ScoreSelect[26,17].

### The ETS comparison tool for law schools

ETS provides law schools with a tool that calculates a predicted LSAT score from an applicant's GRE Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning scores. ETS attaches a caution to it: "The predicted LSAT score based on an applicant's GRE scores may not be perfectly equivalent to an applicant's actual performance on the LSAT exam due to the measurement error inherent in both tests." It gives the predicted score range as approximately plus or minus 5 points on the total LSAT score, and notes that LSAC does not endorse or approve the tool[34].

The tool is addressed to admissions offices. A range of plus or minus 5 points is wide on a scale that runs from 120 to 180, and at least one school in our sample, Georgetown, states that it does not use a converter at all[24,28]. We do not reproduce predicted scores.

**Who takes the GRE for law.** The group is small. In 2024-25, 1,773 GRE test takers named Law as their intended graduate field and 1,678 named a J.D. as their degree objective, each about 1% of all test takers. Intended Law majors numbered between 1,375 and 1,873 in each of the five testing years. Their 2024-25

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mean scores were 153.3 on Verbal Reasoning, 151.6 on Quantitative Reasoning and 3.8 on Analytical Writing[30]. ETS does not publish how many of them applied to law school with a GRE score.

## 10. What five law schools say

The table summarizes the testing policy that each of five law schools publishes on its own admissions pages for the application cycle open when we retrieved them. They were chosen because their pages state a GRE policy in plain terms; the selection is not a ranking and is not representative of all law schools.

| LAW SCHOOL (SOURCE: ITS OWN ADMISSIONS PAGE) | TESTS ACCEPTED FOR THE J.D. | WHAT THE SCHOOL SAYS ABOUT TEST CHOICE AND REPORTING |
|---|---|---|
| Harvard Law School[26] | LSAT or GRE | No preference for either exam. Applicants submitting a GRE score must report all valid scores from the previous five-year period. No testing waivers. |
| Yale Law School[15] | LSAT or GRE General Test | No preference, but scores from one test only. An applicant with a reportable LSAT score may not submit a GRE score. |
| Stanford Law School[16] | LSAT or GRE General Test | Valid LSAT scores must be reported. Applying without an LSAT score is possible only for applicants who have taken only the GRE. |
| Columbia Law School[17] | LSAT or GRE | The choice is left to the applicant. GRE applicants must submit all GRE scores from the last five years and any LSAT scores from the same period, and may not use ScoreSelect. |
| Georgetown Law[28] | LSAT, GRE or GMAT | All treated equally. The school states that it does not convert GRE or GMAT scores to LSAT scores and uses no numerical cutoffs. |

Policies as stated by each school for its J.D. program. Wording is summarized; quotations appear in the text below. Source: Harvard Law School, J.D. admissions frequently asked questions, https://hls.harvard.edu/jdadmissions/apply-to-harvard-law-school/jdapplicants/admissions-faqs-regular-jd/; Yale Law School, J.D. first-year application, https://law.yale.edu/admissions/jd-admissions/first-year-applicants/application; Stanford Law School, J.D. application process, https://law.stanford.edu/apply/how-to-apply/jd-application-process/; Columbia Law School, J.D. admissions frequently asked questions, https://www.law.columbia.edu/admissions/jd/faq; Georgetown Law, J.D. admissions frequently asked questions, https://www.law.georgetown.edu/admissions-aid/jd-admissions/frequently-asked-questions/. Accessed 13 November 2026.[26,15,16,17,28]

- **Harvard:** “Harvard Law School accepts either the Law School Admission Test (LSAT) or the Graduate Record Exam (GRE). We do not have a preference for either exam.”[26]
- **Yale:** “We do not have a preference between these standardized tests. However, applicants may submit score(s) from one standardized test only.”[15]
- **Columbia:** “Applicants can take either the GRE or the LSAT for consideration for admission to Columbia Law School. The choice is entirely up to you.”[17]
- **Georgetown:** “We have no preference when it comes to which standardized test an applicant chooses to take and submit”, and the LSAT, the GRE and the GMAT “are all treated equally”[28].

The common thread is that the choice is real only for someone who has not taken the LSAT. Yale will not consider a GRE score from an applicant with a reportable LSAT score. Stanford requires valid LSAT scores to be reported and allows an application without one only from applicants who have taken only the GRE. Columbia requires GRE applicants to submit any LSAT scores from the last five years as well[15,16,17]. LSAC states that an LSAT result is reportable for up to five testing years after the testing year in which it is earned[24].

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On minimum scores, Harvard states that there are no cut-off scores below which an application will not be considered, Columbia that there is no minimum score, and Georgetown that it uses no numerical cutoffs[26,17,28].

## 11. Choosing a test, and the limits of this report

### Questions the published material can answer

- **Does every program on my list accept the test?** Check each program's own admissions page. Acceptance counts from ETS, GMAC and LSAC describe the field, not your list.
- **Am I applying to more than one kind of program?** ETS says a GRE score works for law school, business school, public policy programs and PhD programs, which matters for joint degrees and for applicants who have not settled on one path[6].
- **Have I already taken the LSAT?** If so, three of the five law schools in our sample require that score to be reported or will not consider a GRE score in its place (section 10).
- **Which format suits me?** The GRE has an essay and no Data Insights section; the GMAT has Data Insights and no essay; the LSAT has no mathematics section and an unscored writing sample (sections 1, 2 and 9). ETS itself says that neither the GRE nor the GMAT is objectively easier and that the answer depends on the individual applicant's strengths[1].
- **What do enrolled students at my target schools score?** Use the school's class profile, and compare like with like: GRE with GRE, and the current GMAT with the current GMAT.

### Limits to keep in mind

- **Five business schools and five law schools are a sample, not a census.** They were the pages that returned readable policy statements or figures. Several other well-known schools publish class profiles that we could not read reliably, and we left them out.
- **Class profiles describe enrolled students.** They do not show how applicants with each test fared, and no source here reports admission rates by test.
- **Test makers describe their own tests favorably.** Comparisons published by ETS, GMAC and LSAC are marketing as well as information. We attribute each one.
- **Policies are for one cycle.** Fees, delivery rules and school policies were read in November 2026 and can change before you apply.
- **No difficulty comparison is made.** None of the sources measures which test is harder, and neither do we.

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