Evolving Assessment to Meet Higher Education Needs

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Dir. of Global Higher Education
ETS

Council of Graduate Schools Summer Workshop
July 11, 2023
ETS Strategic Partnerships Underway

Carnegie Foundation, ETS Partner to Transform the Educational Pillars They Built: The Carnegie Unit and Standardized Tests

ETS Receives Nearly $3.25 Million for AI Research Institute to Advance STEM Learning Among Marginalized U.S. Students

ETS Selected to Help Establish India's First National Assessment Regulator,...
ETS Scholarship Opportunities for Learners

For more information, including eligibility criteria and application deadlines, visit ets.org/caap/philanthropy.

Dr. Lillian M. Lowery Scholarship
This annually awarded national scholarship was established to support a student pursuing a master's degree in education who embodies a spirit of commitment to furthering opportunities for all students. The inaugural scholarship is named in honor of the late Dr. Lillian M. Lowery, a passionate teacher and education leader who championed education reform throughout the United States before joining ETS, where she served as Vice President of Student and Teacher Assessments.

Scholarship Award: $15,000

Robert (Bob) Moses Scholarship
This annually awarded national scholarship is designed to support the educational goals of a graduate student from an underrepresented group who is pursuing a master's or doctoral degree in mathematics education or a STEM discipline. The individual should also have a commitment to civic engagement. The inaugural scholarship is named in honor of the late Bob Moses, a pioneering civil rights leader and educator who founded The Algebra Project, a national U.S. mathematics literacy program aimed at helping low-income students and students of color achieve the mathematical skills in high school that are a prerequisite for success in college and beyond.

Scholarship Award: $15,000

Lenora M. Green Scholarship
This annually awarded national scholarship was established to support the educational goals of an undergraduate student who shows outstanding commitment to civic engagement along with a spirit of advocacy for serving individuals who have been systematically excluded.

The inaugural scholarship is named in honor of the late Lenora M. Green, the former Executive Director of the Center for Advocacy & Philanthropy at ETS. A fierce advocate for educational opportunities for underserved students, Green was committed to civic engagement.

Scholarship Award: $20,000
A Shorter GRE Is Coming September 2023
Measuring graduate readiness in half the time!
Why We’re Making Changes

• At ETS, we have a renewed and focused effort to ensure that learners and educators are at the center of all we do.

• We’ve been introducing new product innovations, such as the TOEFL iBT enhancements that will launch later this month, as well as new partnerships, capabilities and grant awards.

• As we evolve our assessments, we’re committed to maintaining their rigor and validity while also providing test takers with a better experience that values their time and reduces anxiety and fatigue.

• Additional improvements, such as a smoother registration process, are being roadmapped and are anticipated to be delivered in 2024.
What Is Changing

• Beginning September 22, 2023, testing time will be reduced by half, from nearly four hours to just under two, and students will receive scores in 8-10 days (currently 10-15 days).
• The number of questions in the Verbal Reasoning and Quantitative Reasoning sections will be reduced.
• The number of writing tasks will be reduced from two to one.
• The unscored section will be removed
• The scheduled 10-minute break, which comes more than two hours into the current GRE, will be removed since the test is now under two hours (except for those who are approved for that accommodation).
What’s Not Changing

• The test will continue to measure the same skills and construct and maintain the strong quality and security the GRE is known for, with valid and reliable scores for confident decision-making.

• The score scales will remain the same so score users can easily compare performance across cohorts who tested before and after September 2023.

• The sections will not change, though there will be fewer questions/tasks in each.

• Pricing will not change, though we are currently offering a summer discounts through September 20. Also, the reschedule fee will be waived for students who are already registered after September 22, 2023, should they wish to take the longer test instead.
# A Closer Look at the Shorter GRE

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th># of Tasks/Questions</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Analytical Writing (1 section)</td>
<td>1 Issue task; 30 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Verbal Reasoning (2 sections)</td>
<td>Section 1: 12 questions; 18 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section 2: 15 questions; 23 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quantitative Reasoning (2 sections)</td>
<td>Section 1: 12 questions; 21 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Section 2: 15 questions; 26 minutes</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total</td>
<td>Total Testing Time: 1 hour, 58 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

For more information, visit [www.ets.org/gre/changes](http://www.ets.org/gre/changes).
Validity

The changes we’re making are the result of analysis by — and discussions with — our assessment development and psychometrics teams about how to introduce a better experience for test takers while retaining the strong validity and reliability schools need for confident decision-making. The shorter GRE retains an appropriate level of reliability for high-stakes decisions that ensures comparability between the tests.

Test prep

Updated prep will be available this fall, but as all sections and question types will be the same, test takers can continue to use existing GRE test prep to prepare.

Advising Students

This summer, students can choose to either take the current GRE before September 20 or the shorter GRE September 22 or later. There is no overlap period when both versions are available.

In advising students which test to take, it’s best for them to first consider their application deadlines. Those whose deadlines are the first week of October or sooner should take the current test.

If deadlines are not an influencing factor, students should consider their preferences related to seat time and comfort with writing, as well as whether they think more or fewer questions will be an advantage for them.
Comparison Chart for Learners

- New resource compares the current and shorter GRE.
- Chart emphasizes the many similarities between the two tests and points out a few key differences, such as test duration and structure.
- Side 2 offers factors students should consider when deciding which test to take. The most important is their application deadline.

### Get this document at ets.org/pdfs/gre/which-test-should-i-take.pdf
Chart for B-School Aspirants

- New resource compares the shorter GRE and the shorter GMAT test, which is launching later this year.
- Chart compares and contrasts the two assessments on key factors, such as content, cost and test experience.
- Links are provided throughout the document so learners can verify the information themselves.

Get this document at ets.org/pdfs/gre/gre-vs-gmat.pdf
GRE Discounts This Summer

• Students can get $60 off when they take the GRE General Test by Sept 20.

• They can also get $50 off a retest through Dec 31. This retest discount can either be used on the current GRE (before Sept. 20) or the shorter GRE (between Sept. 22 and Dec. 31)

• A flyer is available to share on campus billboards or email directly to students.

Get this flyer at ets.org/pdfs/gre-60-50-deal-summer-2023-flyer.pdf
Students can learn more at https://takethegre.org/summersale
Resources for Using GRE Scores in Admissions

- [www.holisticadmissions.org](http://www.holisticadmissions.org)
  - Holistic Admissions Digital Guide
  - Diversity Resources
  - Fairness Resources
- [GRE Interpretive Data and Information on GRE Website](https://www.ets.org/gre)
  - GRE® Guide to the Use of Scores
  - A Snapshot of the Individuals Who Took the GRE® General Test
  - Using GRE® Scores Successfully in Holistic Admissions
  - Comparison Tool for Law Schools
Need more information?

- **Information about the Shorter GRE**
  - For Score Users and Advisors: [www.ets.org/gre/changes](http://www.ets.org/gre/changes)
  - For Students: [www.ets.org/gre/shorter](http://www.ets.org/gre/shorter)
- **GRE Tests and Services**
  - Visit [www.ets.org/gre](http://www.ets.org/gre)
- **If you have questions:**
  - GRE Help Line: grehelpline@ets.org
- **Sign up to receive updates**
  - [www.ets.org/gre/update](http://www.ets.org/gre/update)
TOEFL iBT® Enhancements
Changes taking effect July 26, 2023
Key Changes to the TOEFL iBT

- Removing unscored items
- Streamlining test instructions
- Removing one reading passage and associated questions
- Replacing the ‘Independent Writing’ task with ‘Writing for an Academic Discussion’ task

Effective July 26, 2023, these enhancements put the TOEFL iBT test time just under 2 hours while maintaining its reliability
TOEFL Test Structure Beginning July 26

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>No. of Questions</th>
<th>Estimated Time</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Reading</td>
<td>20 questions</td>
<td>35 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Listening</td>
<td>28 questions</td>
<td>36 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Speaking</td>
<td>4 tasks</td>
<td>16 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>2 tasks</td>
<td>29 mins</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Total Estimated Time</td>
<td></td>
<td>1 hour 56 mins</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
About the New “Writing for an Academic Discussion” Task

The test taker is expected to:

- respond to or build on ideas expressed in other text
- clearly state or elaborate on a position or argument
- show accurate and meaningful use of a range of grammatical structures and vocabulary in the academic context
- This task demonstrates proficiency in a shorter time with the same high level of reliability and validity
Same Trusted Score Scale

- The test will still provide programs with the trusted scores you rely on for confident decision-making regarding applicants.
- There are no changes to the score scale and programs will not need to change their score requirements.
- Schools can continue to receive scores the same way you receive them now.

Learn more about TOEFL iBT changes at ets.org/toefl/ibt-enhancements.html
ETS Looking Forward

Introducing the ETS Personal Skills and Qualities (PSQ) Tool
Thinking beyond cognitive skills

• Institutions are thinking beyond knowledge and cognitive skills to help students succeed in school, work and life

• What are the additional key skills that students need to develop?

• What are key skills needed for success in a particular area of study?
## Competencies measured

*Tailor your reports to focus on the skills most important to your program.*

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>PSQ Composites</th>
<th>PSQ Dimensions</th>
<th>Big Five Factors of Personality Alignment</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Engaging with others</td>
<td>• Leadership • Sociability</td>
<td>Extraversion</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviors associated with sociability and leadership</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Teamwork</td>
<td>• Collaboration • Trust</td>
<td>Agreeableness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviors associated with engendering trust as well as cooperation with and consideration of others</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Self-regulation</td>
<td>• Perseverance • Organization • Responsibility • Abidance • Self-Discipline</td>
<td>Conscientiousness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviors associated with diligence, responsibility, organization and self-control</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Emotional regulation</td>
<td>• Resiliency • Even-temperedness</td>
<td>Positive Emotionality</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviors associated with being adjusted and even-tempered</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Innovativeness</td>
<td>• Artistic Appreciation • Curiosity • Creativity</td>
<td>Openness</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Behaviors associated with curiosity, creativity, and intellectual and aesthetic interests</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
What research supports the development of PSQ?

• A substantial body of research, including seminal work by ETS leaders in the field of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills.

• PSQ has been verified in close collaboration with higher ed institutions and employers, including the Yale School of Management.

Leading this work is ETS Distinguished Presidential Appointee Patrick Kyllonen of our Education and Career Development research center.

His work focuses on the assessment of interpersonal and intrapersonal skills for higher education and workforce readiness.

He is the author of several books and National Academy of Sciences reports on these topics and is a fellow of APA and AERA — two organizations that set industry standards for educational assessment.
Format and learner experience

- Learners are shown pairs of statements and asked which is most like them.
- Learners provide responses to 130 statements in 20-30 minutes on mobile device or computer.
How is PSQ resistant to faking?

- The two statements that learners are presented with are of equal appeal (or lack thereof), and therefore, applicants will be unable to guess which answer makes them sound “best.”

- In addition, unless you divulge the skill dimensions your program is interested in, they will not be known to the learner, making such guessing even more difficult.

- The inability to prepare for or game this assessment minimizes the chances of any learner having an unfair advantage over another.
How can PSQ be used?

PSQ can be used to inform **pre- and post-admission decisions** based on program needs by providing insights into behavioral characteristics that are critical for success. Insights from the tool may also be used to inform institutions’ goals related to diversity, holistic admission and cohort development.

PSQ can be used to inform **learner development**. The information collected from the PSQ will allow you to better direct efforts and resources to support learner development more effectively, particularly incoming students, as well as support your program's continuous improvement initiatives and assurance of learning process.
How can PSQ be used?

PSQ results can be used by learners to aid in their own personal development. PSQ results provide learners with information about themselves that they can use to take action to develop skills essential for success. Learners can also use greater self-awareness of their strengths and weaknesses in putting together personal statements and other materials for graduate and professional schools, and in interviews for school and the workforce.
Learner experience feedback

• 91% of all learners surveyed answered agree/strongly agree to the statement “...schools should consider my skills and experiences beyond academic measures...when reviewing my graduate school application.”

How learners have described their PSQ experience:

• “I liked that the assessment addressed multiple aspects of my character.”

• “I liked that it was simple and easy to use.”

• “That kind of thought-exercising I find to be very enjoyable, and I hope that it captures an accurate reflection of not only who I think I am but who others think that I am as well.”

• “I enjoyed the format.”

• “I liked that some of the questions challenged me, and I had to actually stop and consider which of the choices most and least described me (was especially difficult when all of them were applicable to me or none of them were).

• “The assessment helped me think introspectively and challenged what I thought about myself.”
Why the PSQ tool?

- Objective and fair for all, including those from minority/underrepresented groups
- Valid and reliable; backed by extensive research
- Resistant to coaching, gaming and faking
- Developed by ETS – a non-profit organization committed to advancing quality and equity in education
Discussion

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