



GRE (Graduate Record Examination) -- for all fields of study not covered by examinations listed below (including veterinary school). Information about the Graduate Record Examination is available at <http://www.ets.org/gre> or by picking up a GRE Information and Registration Bulletin in Career Services. The **general test** of the GRE is offered **only** via computer-based testing in the U.S. General tests may be scheduled year-round. Call the Candidate Services Center at 1-800-473-2255 to schedule a test time that fits your needs. GRE **Subject Tests** are **paper-based tests** and are offered on November 4, 2006, December 2, 2006, and April 14, 2007.

GMAT The Graduate Management Admission Test is being offered **only** in computer-based format at centers around the world. You may take the test on a date convenient for you. Call 1-800-717-4628 for more information and to register. The GMAT web site at <http://www.mba.com> contains information about the computer adaptive technology being used as well as tips on studying for the GMAT.

LSAT The Law School Admission Test is being offered on the following dates:
Saturday, September 30, 2006 *Check the bulletin in Career Services*
Saturday, December 2, 2006 *for late registration options.*
Saturday, February 10, 2007

Information about the LSAT and links to on-line registration forms are available at <http://www.lsac.org/>. LSAT & LSDAS Registration and Information Books may be picked up in Career Services. Cate Talbot Ashton of Career Services, is the college Pre-Law Advisor. You may schedule an appointment with her by calling X4140.

MCAT (Medical College Admission Test) If you are planning on applying to medical school, you must first speak with a faculty advisor on the Health Professions Advisory Committee. Contact Cynthia Parker in Career Services for further information about applying to medical school. The MCAT will be offered on 22 dates between January and September of 2007. For more information, go to <http://www.aamc.org/students/mcat/cbtreg.htm>.

VCAT The Veterinary College Admission Test is no longer offered. Students applying to veterinary schools are required to take the general test of the GRE (see above).

Praxis Series Tests The Praxis Series of tests is for beginning teachers and is required for certification in approximately 34 states. Consult the web for information about the Praxis series tests at <http://www.ets.org/praxis> or pick up a Registration Bulletin in Career Services. Tests may be taken on paper or at computer-based testing sites. For dates of various tests, consult the website.

Foreign Service Examination Consult on-line registration and test date information available at <http://www.careers.state.gov/officer/join/examinfo.html> to register on-line.

MAT (Miller Analogy Test) The MAT is often taken in lieu of the GRE, particularly for graduate programs in Education. Information is available at <http://www.milleranalogies.com>. The MAT is no longer administered at Colby, but may be taken at the University of Maine at Farmington -- call (207)778-7039 for information.

Should I or Shouldn't I?

Questions typically asked by students about graduate school testing.

What test should I take?

The test(s) you take depend upon the type of graduate program you select. First, identify programs and schools which interest you, then consult the catalog and/or application information to determine the test(s) which will be required.

A look at the Peterson's Guide to Graduate Programs (available in paper in the Career Services Library or on the web via www.petersons.com) may give you the information you need. If not, consult program or university web pages for information.

Should I take the GRE/GMAT/LSAT if I don't plan to go on to graduate or professional school immediately after graduating from Colby?

It is likely that you will tend to perform better on the general GRE and the GMAT (if you already have strong quantitative skills) while you are still a student, or soon after having been in the "student-mode." Those are tests you should consider taking this year even if you are unsure about your graduate school plans. The drawback in taking such tests now is that the scores are only available for 5 years from the date of the test -- so if you end up waiting 5+ years to apply to graduate school you may have to retake the test.

The GRE subject tests and the LSAT are exams for which you should invest considerable preparation time and effort. If you are not planning to apply to graduate programs which require these exams any time soon, you should wait until you are sufficiently motivated to give it the time and preparation you will need.

I've heard that the prep courses are a must -- do I have to take one?

Some students have found that the preparation courses are a helpful (or even necessary) part of their test-taking readiness. Most people who have taken the courses find they give them test-taking skills, study skills, and practice at taking timed tests. They will not, however, correct gaps in your education, cure writing problems, or guarantee a high score. The main drawback is that they are time-intensive and expensive. With determination and organization you can excel on graduate exams without a prep course. We do, however, recommend that you look carefully at the information included in the test bulletin and on their website and beg, borrow, or buy a test-prep book so that you can practice before the exam.

When is the optimum time to take the test I need?

The optimum test time is determined entirely by the application dates/requirements of the programs to which you intend to apply. Some general rules apply, however, to taking the LSAT or the MCAT. For law school applications you should take the LSAT, at the latest, in early fall in the academic year in which you apply (for Seniors applying to go immediately to law school, that means taking the LSAT by October of the senior year). For medical school candidates, you must take the MCAT between January and September at least a year before you hope to begin school. Taking it early allows you to assess your eligibility for various schools more accurately. Seniors hoping to attend medical school the year after graduating must complete the MCAT before their senior year.

How important are my scores in getting into the graduate program of my choice?

How critical your test scores are will depend upon a variety of factors. For medical school and law school applications, test scores are absolutely critical in the admission decision. Consult the Pre-Law and Health Professions advisors in Career Services for help in assessing how your scores compare to successful Colby candidates.

For arts, science, humanities, business, education, and other professional school applications, your test scores will vary in importance. If you have extensive volunteer, work, and/or research experience in your field, that can help mitigate low scores. High grades, particularly in courses related to your desired field of study, may be considered with more weight than test scores. Talking with professors in your field, or with alumni who have attended programs similar to those in which you are interested may shed light on what is most important in your particular application.