

# *Graduate School Packet*



CAS Career  
Services

213 Life Sciences East  
(405) 744-5658

Make an appointment online at  
[cas.okstate.edu/careers](http://cas.okstate.edu/careers)

## Questions to consider

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- Why do I want to complete a graduate degree?
- How will a graduate degree improve my career prospects?
- Do I have the resources and criteria to continue my education beyond a bachelor's degree?

## Researching programs and making decisions

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- Explore programs that meet your career interests
- Identify and categorize programs based on your needs (e.g., GPA, GRE, location, funding)
- Ask faculty, advisors, career consultants, or industry professionals for advice or suggestions
- Determine financial aid and scholarship opportunities that will offset costs
- Consider professional accreditation of graduate programs for career mobility

## Applying for graduate school

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- Make a list of requirements for your programs to keep track of your materials and deadlines
- Request 3-5 people to serve as strong references and share guidelines with letter writers
- Write your personal statement and have Career Services and other resources review it
- Apply for research or teaching assistantships to build related experience
- Study and take the admissions test and practice interviewing skills (if required for the program)

## General tips for graduate school applications

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- Schedule your exams at a test taking facility at least 3 months before the application due date
  - Allow 1 month before the due date to retake the exam if needed
- Call admission offices to ask questions or clarify any details if you are unsure
- Expect variations in application processes and materials that will differ by program
- Provide full instructions to letter writers and notify them at least 4 weeks before the due date
- Send transcripts from all colleges and universities attended to the graduate programs

## Online resources to research graduate programs

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### General research for programs

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- [Gradschoolmatch](#)

### Allied health

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- [Accreditation Council for Genetic Counseling \(ACGC\)](#)
- [Accreditation Review Commission on Education for the Physician Assistant \(ARC-PA\)](#)
- [American Occupational Therapy Association \(AOTA\)](#)
- [Commission on Accreditation in Physical Therapy Education \(CAPTE\)](#)
- [Commission on Accreditation of Allied Health Education Programs \(CAAHEP\)](#)
- [Commission on Accreditation of Athletic Training Education \(CAATE\)](#)

### Applied and natural science, computing, engineering and engineering technology

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- [Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology \(ABET\)](#)
- [Commission on Accreditation of Medical Physics Education Programs \(CAMPEP\)](#)
- [Human Factors and Ergonomics Society \(HFES\)](#)

### Business administration

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- [Association to Advance Collegiate Schools of Business \(AACSB\)](#)

### Clinical, counseling and/or school psychology

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- [American Psychological Association \(APA\)](#)
- [National Association of School Psychologists \(NASP\)](#)

### Counseling, marriage and family therapy, and social work

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- [Commission on Accreditation of Marriage and Family Therapy Education \(COAMFTE\)](#)
- [Council on Accreditation of Counseling and Related Educational Programs \(CACREP\)](#)
- [Council on Social Work Education \(CSWE\)](#)

### Journalism and mass communications

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- [Accrediting Council on Education in Journalism and Mass Communications \(ACEJMC\)](#)

### Library and information sciences

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- [American Library Association \(ALA\)](#)

### Public health and healthcare administration

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- [Commission on Accreditation of Healthcare Management Education \(CAHME\)](#)
- [Council on Education for Public Health \(CEPH\)](#)

### Speech-language pathology and audiology

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- [American Speech-Language-Hearing Association \(ASHA\)](#)

# Entry Exams for Grad School



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## Which Exam is Right for Me?

- **Graduate Record Examination (GRE)** – The most commonly used entry exam, typically used by academic and non-medical sciences programs.
- **GRE Subject Tests** – Similar to the GRE exam, but content is exclusively focused on a particular topic. Topics include; Biology, Chemistry, Literature, Math, Physics, and Psychology
- **Miller Analogies Test (MAT)** – Another, less-common entry exam similar to the GRE. It is often used by humanities and social science programs; very few STEM programs accept the MAT
- **Medical College Admission Test (MCAT)** – The gold standard of medical sciences entry exams used by most medical sciences programs including; MD, DO, PA, Vet-Med, and others.
- **Law School Admission Test (LSAT)** – Most common, and typically required entry exam for all Law and Juris Doctoral programs in the US.
- **Graduate Management Admission Test (GMAT)** – Common entry exam used for graduate programs in business, finance, economics, etc.
- **Other Common Entry Exams:** Pharmacy College Admission Exam (PCAT), Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL), Dental Admission Test (DAT), Optometry Admission Test (OAT)

## What Will I Be Tested On?

<b>GRE</b>	The GRE is offered both digitally and on paper. It consists of three main sections; two 30-minute verbal reasoning sections consisting of 20 questions each, two 35 minute quantitative reasoning (math) sections consisting of 20 questions each, and 1 45-minute Analytical Writing (essay) section. Test takers are provided a score of 130 to 170 on verbal and quantitative reasoning sections, and a score of 1-6 for the analytical writing section. Note that the you are able to submit a “super score” consisting of the highest score in each category if you take the test multiple times, however, be aware you can only take up 5 exams each year.
<b>GRE Subject</b>	GRE subject tests are offered digitally and on paper. Test content varies depending on which test is taken, but most tests consist of multiple choice questions intended to assess one’s knowledge acquired in undergraduate courses. Test takers are provided one score on a scale of 20 to 990. Most institutions accept the highest score but GRE subject tests can only be taken 3 times per year.
<b>MAT</b>	The MAT is a 60-minute exam consisting of 120 verbal-analogy questions either on paper or digitally. All questions are multiple-choice (4 choices). 100 of the 120 questions are scored; the remaining 20 are not scored. This test is often a good alternative for those with limited math skills, but it is not accepted by many programs.

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<b>MCAT</b>	The MCAT is a computer based exam consisting of 4 95-minute, multiple choice sections assessing students ability/knowledge in Chemical/Physical Foundations of Physical Symptoms, Biological/Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems, Psychological/Social/Biological Foundations of Behavior, and Critical Analysis/Reasoning Skills; all sections consist of 50-60 items. Students can only take the MCAT 3 times in a calendar year, or 7 attempts lifetime. Each MCAT section is score on a scale of 118-132 or a total score of 472-528. Students should note that ALL scores are reported to medical schools and it is up to their discretion how they evaluate multiple attempts.
<b>LSAT</b>	The LSAT can be taken on paper or via tablet (starting in January 2019). It consists of 5 35-minute multiple choice sections assessing reading comprehension, analytical reasoning, and logical reasoning. Note that these sections will be given in a random order. Following the testing date, students will also be required to complete a 35-minute, unscored writing sample via a secure web-based program. Test takers are given a single score on a scale of 120 to 180, based on the average of each of the 5 scored sections. Law schools universally accept the highest score and <i>not</i> an average score from multiple attempts.
<b>GMAT</b>	The GMAT is a computer based test consisting of 4 sections; a 30-minute analysis of argument (essay section), a 30-minute integrated reasoning section assessing ability to interpret business data and figures, a 75-minute quantitative sections consisting of problem solving and data sufficiency items, an optional timed break, and a verbal section consisting of sentence correction, critical reasoning, and reading comprehension items. Students are given section and combined scores. Some institutions may accept "super scores."

## How Do I Prepare?

- Begin studying for your exam at least 3-6 months before your scheduled test date
  - Be sure your test date is no less than 3 months before your graduate application date
- Research consistently shows that the best way to prepare for these exams is to take practice exams! When taking practice tests be sure to treat them as real exams, and even attempt to take them at a desk if possible!
- The Edmond Low Library offers physical books and online study guides for the MCAT, GRE, LSAT, GMAT and MAT exams.
  - Career Services offers FREE practice exams at:  
<http://hireosugrads.com/StudentsAlumni/GradSchool-Test.aspx>
- Additional Study Resources:
  - GRE & GRE Subject Tests
    - PowerPrep: [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/prepare/powerprep/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/powerprep/)
    - ETS GRE Math Review: [https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre\\_math\\_review.pdf](https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_math_review.pdf)
    - KhanAcademy.org
    - Kaplan GRE Prep: [shop.kaptest.com/GRE/Prep](http://shop.kaptest.com/GRE/Prep)
    - ETS Official GRE Guide:  
[https://ereg.ets.org/ereg/public/testPrep/viewtestPreparation?\\_p=GR1](https://ereg.ets.org/ereg/public/testPrep/viewtestPreparation?_p=GR1)
  - MAT
    - Pearson Assessments: <https://www.pearsonassessments.com/graduate-admissions/mat/about.html>

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- Test Prep Review: [https://www.testprepreview.com/mat\\_practice.htm](https://www.testprepreview.com/mat_practice.htm)
- Major Tests Prep: <https://www.majortests.com/mat/miller-analogies-test-practice.php>
- MCAT
  - AAMC Official MCAT Study Prep: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/prepare-mcat-exam/free-planning-and-study-resources/>
  - AAMC MCAT study guide and practice questions: <https://store.aamc.org/the-official-guide-to-the-mcat-exam-online-practice-questions.html?options=cart>
  - Khan Academy.org
  - Kaplan MCAT Prep: <https://www.kaptest.com/mcat>
  - The Princeton Review
- LSAT
  - Law School Admission Council Sample Test: <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/lSAT-prep/practice-test>
  - Kaplan LSAT Prep: <https://www.kaptest.com/lSAT>
  - Test Max Prep: <https://testmaxprep.com/lSAT>
  - KhanAcademy.org
  - The Princeton Review
- GMAT
  - MBA.com: <https://www.mba.com/exam-prep>
  - Kaplan GMAT Prep: <https://www.kaptest.com/gmat>
  - KhanAcademy.org

## Where/When Should I Take My Exam?

- Schedule your exams at a test taking facility at least 3 months before the application due date
  - Allow 1 month before the due date to retake the exam if needed
- Oklahoma State offers most exams at University Assessment & Testing (1524 W. Admiral Ave., Stillwater, OK 74078), but exams must be scheduled at the exam-specific website
  - GRE registration: [https://www.ets.org/gre/revised\\_general/register/](https://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/register/)
  - MAT registration: <https://www2.registerblast.com/okstate/Exam/List>
  - MCAT registration: <https://students-residents.aamc.org/applying-medical-school/taking-mcat-exam/>
  - LSAT registration: <https://www.lsac.org/lSAT/lSAT-dates-deadlines-score-release-dates/registering-lSAT>
  - GMAT registration: <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat/before-the-exam/register-for-the-gmat-exam>
- Special note for LSAT test-takers: the LSAT is **only offered 7 times per year**, with only 5 testing sites in Oklahoma. **Space is limited!** Be sure to register at least 3 months before desired test date.

## How Much Does it Cost? (US Only)

GRE	\$205
GRE Subject Test	\$150
MAT	\$80
MCAT	\$315 (\$370 for late registration)
LSAT	\$190 (\$45 for additional score reports)
GMAT	\$250

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## What should I know about my scores?

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- Most scores will **expire** after a determined amount of time, be sure to sure you are aware of this if you plan on taking a gap between undergraduate and graduate work
  - Most scores a 'good' for 5 years, 3 years for the MCAT
- Most scores can be submitted to institutions at the time of the test, while others may require you to submit scores after they are released to you
- Information about averages and scoring data can be found at:
  - GRE: [https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre\\_guide.pdf](https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide.pdf)
  - GRE Subject Tests: [https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre\\_guide\\_table2.pdf](https://www.ets.org/s/gre/pdf/gre_guide_table2.pdf)
  - MAT: <http://images.pearsonclinical.com/images/PDF/assessmentReports/MillerWhitepaper.pdf>
  - MCAT: <https://www.aamc.org/system/files/c/2/462316-mcatguide.pdf>
  - LSAT: <https://www.lsat-center.com/prep-guide/lsat-scores/>
  - GMAT: <https://www.mba.com/exams/gmat/after-the-exam/gmat-scores-and-score-reports/what-gmat-percentile-ranking-means>

<b>General information</b>		
City, state		
Rank information		
Web address		
Faculty/student ratio		
Degree program/type (MFA, AuD, PhD)		
Why am I interested in this program?		
<b>Admissions information</b>		
Admissions contact name Email address Phone number  Physical/mailling address		
Due date for application		
Application fee		
Date application submitted		
Acceptance statistics		
Accept or decline by date		
Pre-requisites needed?		
<b>Application requirements</b>		
Minimum GRE scores and GPA		
Other standardized tests (e.g., TOEFL)		
Faculty research interests/specializations		
Personal statement character/page limits		
Resume/CV requirements		
Number of recommendation letters and from whom		
<b>Student life</b>		
Health/wellness/medical facilities		
Extracurricular/professional organizations		
Diversity/multicultural organizations		



<b>Finances</b>		
Yearly tuition		
Yearly fees		
Books/supplies		
Room and board		
Medical		
Internet/cable/TV		
Utilities		
Transportation		
Other expenses:		
Estimated total		
Assistantships/graduate student funding		
Related practicum/internship/work sites		
Financial aid office information		
<b>Campus visits</b>		
Date and time		
Contact person and their information		
Length of visit		
Accommodations		
<b>Surrounding area</b>		
Recreational/community activities		
Potential local employers		
Community organizations		
Median income		
Average rental cost/On-campus living		
Diversity/multicultural resources		
Average weather		
Additional information to consider		