

Hanover College Career Center GRE Preparation Flow Chart

Legend

If you have limited time for GRE prep, at least use these suggestions.

Must be purchased.

Take ETS's PowerPrep II's first full-length practice test to assess your current abilities, and to become familiar with the structure and pacing of the GRE. (Download PowerPrep II at www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/powerprep2).

Find the target GRE score for your grad school field in PowerPrep II under: Reports > By area of Graduate Study.

Based on your performance on the practice test:

If you want to improve on the Verbal Reasoning section:

Work through practice questions for each VR area you want to target.

For reading comprehension:

Read periodicals, ask yourself questions about the passages*

For vocabulary:

Learn Greek and Latin roots, prefixes and suffixes.*

Buy GRE vocabulary flash cards or flip books. Plan a schedule to expand vocabulary based on time remaining.

Use new vocabulary; read extensively; do crosswords.

If you want to improve on the Quantitative Reasoning section:

Work through practice questions to become familiar with the format of GRE math questions.

Work through PowerPrep's Math Review. Answer the questions following each section; identify your areas of weakness and focus on them. Give yourself time limits on questions to improve your pacing.

Seek help from the Learning Center for shortcuts and for strategies to handle questions you find challenging.

If you want to improve on the Analytical Writing section:

Familiarize yourself with the focus of this section: read and review the sample questions and tips for the AWS found at www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/know.

Write at least one timed practice essay for each of the two areas: "Your Perspective on an Issue" and "Analyzing an Argument". (For the entire pool of questions, go to www.ets.org/gre, General Test > Test Preparation and select "Writing Topics".)

Bring your completed essays with the question prompts to the Career Center for comments and scoring.

For official ETS scoring of your practice essays, use **Score it Now!** found at www.ets.org/gre/general/prepare/scoreitnow.

Use a GRE Prep book for tips on questions you find challenging and for strategies to improve pacing. (However, don't rely on their practice tests for an accurate sense of the GRE itself).

Take PowerPrep II's second full-length practice test to see what you should focus on until your test date.

* Related handouts are available from the Career Center.