Update from the *TOEFL*® and *GRE*® Programs at ETS

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What We Will Cover Today

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TOEFL® Program Update

Revised *TOEFL®* Paper-delivered Test

- The TOEFL Paper-based Test (TOEFL PBT) has continued to be an option in some parts of the world since the launch of the computer-delivered *TOEFL iBT®* test in 2005.

- The number of individuals who take the TOEFL PBT test today is very small.

- We have continued to offer the TOEFL PBT test in locations where the TOEFL iBT test cannot be administered due to irregular electricity or internet service or political instability. We do this because we are deeply committed to providing access and opportunity for all those who want to take the TOEFL test.

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Revised *TOEFL*® Paper-delivered Test

- Beginning in October 2017, ETS will administer a new paper-format test that is more in line with the *TOEFL iBT*® test.

- The revised TOEFL Paper-delivered Test will measure three skills using actual TOEFL iBT test questions: Reading, Listening and Writing.

- Speaking will not be measured because of its technological requirements.

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Revised *TOEFL*® Paper-delivered Test (continued)

- Score reports for the new test will look different because there will be only 3 section scores (Reading, Writing and Listening) and no total score.

  - Because there is no Speaking section, no total score will be reported since *TOEFL iBT*® total scores are not comparable with total scores on the new test.

- Because of initial equating requirements, scores for the first test administration, which will take place in October 2017, will be reported approximately 7 weeks after the test date.

- Scores for subsequent test administrations will be reported approximately 5 weeks after the test date, the same time frame as the existing PBT test.

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TOEFL® MOOC

TOEFL Test Preparation: The Insider's Guide:
- Launched June 13, 2016
  - To date, there have been 475,000 participants representing over 206 countries
  - Next course will launch August 9, 2017
    - Will include *e-rater*® and *SpeechRater*^{SM} technology
    - Self-paced (previously ran as a 6-week course)
    - Open through November 8, 2017
- Objective
  - To create broad awareness of *TOEFL iBT*® test structure, preparation and registration process
  - To demystify TOEFL iBT test

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TOEFL® MOOC (continued)

- Structured as a six-week course:
  - Introduction
  - Reading
  - Listening
  - Speaking
  - Writing
  - General preparation and tips
- Elements include:
  - Videos
  - Sample questions and explanations
  - Quizzes that check for understanding
  - Discussion threads
  - Discounted test prep offers

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TOEFL® eNews Quarterly Update

- Our TOEFL eNews quarterly update offers you the latest information from the *TOEFL®* program and lets you know about valuable *TOEFL* resources as well as industry news.

ets.org/toefl/institutions/resources/newsletters

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GRE® Program Update

A Snapshot of the Individuals Who Took the GRE® General Test: July 2013–June 2016

- Published in January 2017
- 584,677 unique test takers who took the *GRE®* General Test between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016
  - Includes only those who had valid scores on all three measures
  - Data analysis includes test takers' most recent scores only, even if they took the test more than once during that period
- Performance information for the GRE General Test population between July 1, 2015, and June 30, 2016
- Volume information for the GRE revised General Test population between August 1, 2013, and June 30, 2016

Full report is available at ets.org/gre/snapshot

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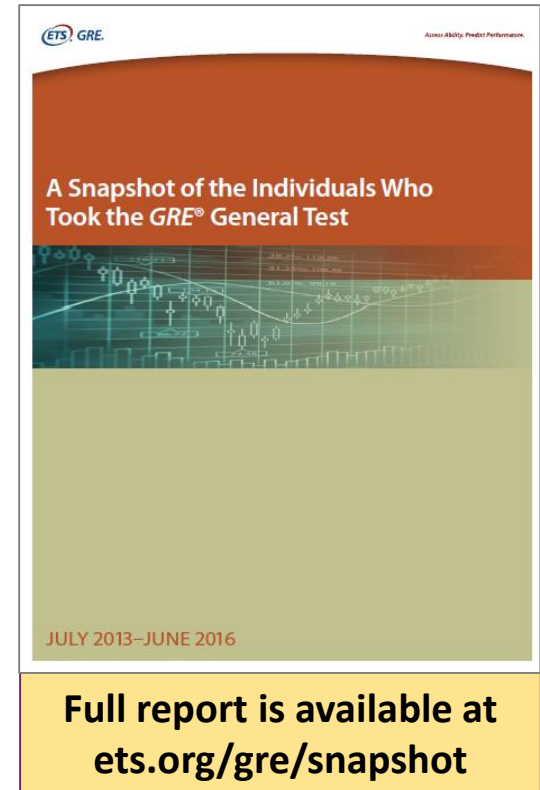
New Subscores on the *GRE®* Psychology Test

- To better meet the needs of graduate-level psychology programs, ETS is revising the subscore information reported to score recipients on the GRE Psychology Test.

- In addition to the total score, six new subscores will be reported in place of the two existing subscores:

  - Biological

  - Cognitive

  - Social

  - Developmental

  - Clinical

  - Measurement/Methodology/Other

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New Subscores on the *GRE*® Psychology Test (continued)

- The new subscores will be reported beginning with tests administered in September 2017.

- The new subscores are intended to provide psychology departments with information about their applicants' strengths and weaknesses, and can be used for guidance and placement purposes.

- On July 6, 2017, an email about the changes was sent to all GRE score recipients who have received GRE Psychology Test scores in the past year.

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Updated Record Layout for *Scorelink*® Files

- To accommodate the six new *GRE®* Psychology Test subscores, the GRE record layout for Scorelink files was updated on July 5, 2017.

  - The update affects the Scorelink files ETS sends to institutions as well as the Scorelink files that score recipients download in the *ETS®* Data Manager.

- The locations of all the fields in the previous layout remain unchanged in the updated layout. The additional subscores for the GRE Psychology Test were added to positions that were previously filler positions.

- The changes to the record layout were communicated to Scorelink and ETS Data Manager users in February 2017.

- The updated layout is available at **www.ets.org/gre/recordlayout2017**.

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POWERPREP™ Online

- Effective July 30, 2017, the user interface (i.e., "look and feel") of the *GRE®* General Test will be updated.

  – The structure, content and question types will not change.

- Introduced on May 1, 2017, *POWERPREP* Online includes two practice tests and simulates the new user interface of the GRE General Test that will be administered beginning on July 30.

  – Test takers can order *POWERPREP* Online free of charge in their ETS Account.

- Individuals testing before July 30, 2017, should use the *POWERPREP* II software available at www.ets.org/gre/prepare.

- Both free *POWERPREP* products contain the same test preparation questions. The main difference between the practice tests in the two products is the look and feel of the user interface.

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POWERPREP Plus™

- This new service that also simulates the new user interface of the computer-delivered *GRE®* General Test will launch later this month.

- Includes the following:

  – Two timed practice tests that contain never-before-published test questions and functionality that simulates the actual computer-delivered GRE General Test

    ▪ Pricing will be on a per-test basis.

  – Scores on the Verbal Reasoning, Quantitative Reasoning and Analytical Writing sections of the test.

  – Explanations for correct answers for every question in each practice test

  – A score report

- Test takers will be able to purchase each of the two *POWERPREP* Plus practice tests in their ETS Account.

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Graduate School Admissions Practices Initiative

- In Fall 2016, *GRE*® Board members expressed a willingness to provide ETS staff access to their admissions directors and admissions committees. This initiative would provide ETS:

  - An opportunity to more directly learn about the graduate admissions process

  - An opportunity to better understand the tools and information used to inform admissions decisions

  - An opportunity to better understand the challenges that programs have in making admissions decisions

- The information obtained by ETS staff could be used to:

  - Develop admissions guidelines the GRE Program could recommend to score users

  - Inform future ETS research agendas, communications plans and overall insight that ETS provides institutions

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Structured Interviews Were Conducted at Eight Institutions from April–June 2017

- ETS team included staff from the *GRE®* Program, Academic to Career Research Center, Market Research and Client Relations.

- The ETS team interviewed staff from the graduate schools' admissions teams.

- The ETS team also interviewed faculty from a variety of programs, including:

Anthropology	History
Biological Sciences	Learning Sciences
Chemistry	Nursing
Computer Science	Psychology
Engineering	Public Health
Education	Sociology

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Next steps

- ETS staff will:

    - Conduct a review of the research literature related to graduate admissions

    - Write a report summarizing the findings of the structured interviews

    - Develop and disseminate tools and resources to support the graduate admissions process beginning in Fall 2017

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Use of the *GRE®* General Test in U.S. Law School Admissions

- The University of Arizona is now accepting *GRE®* scores.

- Harvard University is now accepting GRE scores.

- ETS is currently conducting a national validity study to determine the validity of scores for law school admissions.

- As with business schools, the GRE General Test could open more pathways to law schools, increasing diversity in all its forms and making it easier for students to pursue joint degrees.

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Sign Up for the *GRE® eUPDATE* Newsletter

Assess Ability. Predict Performance.

Take a closer look at the *GRE®* applicant pipeline

GRE® eUpdate   April 2017

A Snapshot of *GRE®* Test Takers — Put the data to work for you

Get the highlights from the recently released edition of *A Snapshot of the Individuals Who Took the GRE® General Test* including data, insights and trends on the large, diverse

What's new for sharing with future students?

We're talking about GRE flyers in seven languages, an updated student presentation, a new LinkedIn® page for those interested in a graduate business degree and refreshed test prep.

- To receive the latest *GRE®* news, updates, webinar dates and more, encourage all faculty and staff to sign up for the GRE mailing list.

ets.org/gre/update

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ETS-Wide Initiatives: Test Security

Test Security: Facial Recognition in China

- The *TOEFL*® program and the National Education Examinations Authority in China had hardware and software developed for a new biometric security feature: facial recognition.

- Test taker's image captured during check-in process.

- System performs facial recognition verification against national identification document.

- Will develop a database of test takers and imposters for additional verification.

- To be implemented in all centers for the *GRE*® General Test and the *TOEFL*® test in 2017.

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Test Security: Operational Innovations

- The Speech Sample Service makes it possible for institutions to listen to a test taker's spoken response.
  - A scored 1-minute response
  - Sample reflects **median** performance from 1 of the 4 integrated speaking tasks

- Minimizing time zone cheating
  - Beginning in January 2017, ETS and the *TOEFL*® Program implemented a new process for computer-delivered tests that will help deter cheating by varying the content for test takers in different time zones.

- Providing high quality photos
  - TOEFL photos on score reports and in the *ETS*® Data Manager
  - *GRE*® photos in *ETS*® Data Manager

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Making Test Security Communications Easier

For the *GRE®* and *TOEFL®* tests we have:

- **Established new Office of Testing Integrity mailbox** just for institutions.
  - CommunicateTestSecurity@ets.org
- **Developed a score inquiry form** to make it easy to submit requests for review of scores .
- **Streamlined our processes** so within one business day you will know who will be working on your inquiry.
- **Reviewed our standard letters** to make them clearer and easier to understand.
- **Changed our policy** so test taker cancellation letter will be sent automatically to institutions if the score review results in a cancellation.
  - New process in effect for tests administered from July 1, 2016.

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How to Report a Test Security Concern

- Contact the ETS Office of Testing Integrity (OTI) at **CommunicateTestSecurity@ets.org**.

- Provide your contact information.

- Use the new standard form to report the concern available on the *GRE®* and *TOEFL®* websites.

- Or identify the test taker for us:
  – Full name, date of birth, test date in question, and registration or ETS ID number
  – Test scores
  – Not required but very helpful: the reason for questioning the score

- Within one business day you will receive the name and contact information of the security analyst handling your inquiry.

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ETS Staff are Always Ready to Help

The Client Relations team is available to help with your institution's *GRE*® test and *TOEFL*® test related needs:

- Campus visits
- Student fairs
- Student presentations

- Webinars
- Prompt responses to questions and resolution of concerns

- Visit the *TOEFL*® website at **www.ets.org/toefl**

- If you have questions:
  - Email: TOEFLnews@ets.org
  - Phone: 1-609-683-2008

- Visit the *GRE*® website at **www.ets.org/gre/institutions**

- If you have questions:
  - Email: GREhelpline@ets.org
  - Phone: 1-609-683-2662

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