

## Preparatory Courses at the University of Utah GRE (Graduate Record Exam)

This course is designed to help you do your best on the GRE, and get one step closer to graduate school. This course will assist you to do your best on the computer version of the General Test of the GRE. With its structured approach and comprehensive content, this course is designed to build confidence and sharpen test-taking skills. By examining each area of the GRE in depth, you will know what to expect and be able to set goals for improving your performance level. Students will be given two in-class practice tests and will also receive practice for the GRE Writing Assessment. They will also have access to computers with GRE software, enabling them to become familiar with the computer-based exam.

Although no preparation course can guarantee a high score or compensate for major gaps in knowledge, this course will help you develop the psychological readiness to perform at your peak.

PLEASE NOTE: Registration for graduate school admission exams is independent of any preparatory course.

**Materials Used:** *The Official Guide for the GRE Revised Test*  
PowerPrep II Software (made by GRE)  
Practice Book for the Paper-based GRE® revised General Test (PDF)  
Course-specific supplementary materials

### GRE Preparatory Course Syllabus

Each class period will begin with a brief vocabulary review and then study both the quantitative and verbal portions of the exam. Because this course is offered during two evenings per week or one Saturday per week, the weekly course scheduled will be adjusted accordingly. At-home study material will be assigned between classes.

#### Discussion Topics:

#### Overview of the Exam

Introduction to the revised exam, including a half-length in-class diagnostic test. We will discuss how graduate schools use the GRE, registration for the exam, purpose, organization, and scoring of the exam. We will also help students develop an individualized study plan, setting reasonable goals and expectations and considering personal study strategies.

#### Quantitative

- I. Review of basic math concepts using selected problems in a course-specific supplement
  - a. Word Problems
  - b. Geometry
  - c. Probability
  - d. Combinations and Permutations
  - e. Basic Statistics
- II. Specific Question Types: using selected material in the textbook, we will examine each question type, evaluate strategies and tips for answering, and practice using real GRE questions. We will also consider the question formats (one multiple-choice, several multiple-choice, and data entry).
  - a. Quantitative Comparisons
  - b. Problem Solving
  - c. Data Analysis

#### Verbal

- I. Vocabulary

The GRE tests high-level, in-context vocabulary questions. We will discuss strategies for building your vocabulary, as well as how to make educated guesses on words you don't know.
- II. How to Read for the GRE

Successful test-takers (and graduate students!) can move easily between different

modes of reading, learning to anticipate the passage and predict the answer. This skill is tested on all the verbal questions, and in fact, some of the quantitative questions. The course will begin with a discussion of how to read for the GRE.

#### III. Specific Question Types

Using selected material in the textbook, we will examine each question type, evaluate strategies and tips for answering, and practice using real GRE questions. We will also consider the question formats (one multiple-choice, several multiple-choice, and select-a-sentence).

- a. Reading Comprehension
- b. Text Completion
- c. Sentence Equivalence

#### Analytical Writing

Discussion will focus on the purpose of the essay, description of the tasks, how to organize your essay, and GRE scoring criteria and method.

- Analysis of an Argument
- Analysis of an Issue – Present Your Perspective

#### Conclusion

There will be a full-length in-class on-computer practice test, which we will review. We will discuss final study strategies, dealing with anxiety, and have a course evaluation.

