

Preparing to take a standardized test to gain admittance into graduate school is a very important part of the process. Most recommend taking **six weeks to three months** to study for a graduate school entrance exam.

We highly recommend the following steps to prepare for a standardized test:

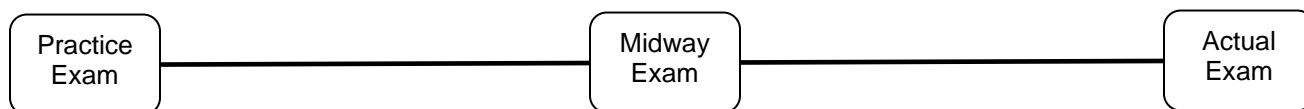
1. Understand which test you need to take and do basic research on it.

| Test | Sections & Time Allotted | Offered Electronically or on Paper |
|-----------------------------------|--|------------------------------------|
| GRE | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Quantitative, 2 sections (20 questions, 35 minutes) Verbal, 2 sections (20 questions, 35 minutes) Analytical writing (2 essays, 30 minutes each) | Electronic |
| LSAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Logical reasoning, 2 sections (24-26 questions, 35 minutes) Reading comprehension (26-28 questions, 35 minutes) Logic games (22-24 questions, 35 minutes) Experimental (22-28 questions, 35 minutes, unscored, not optional, & not notated) Writing sample (1 essay, 35 minutes, unscored) | Paper |
| GMAT | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Verbal (41 questions, 75 minutes) Quantitative (37 questions, 75 minutes) Integrated Reasoning (12 questions, 30 minutes) Analytical Writing (1 essay, 30 minutes) | Electronic |
| MAT (Millers Analogy Test) | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> 120 partial analogies in 60 minutes | Electronic |
| MCAT 2015 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Biological and Biochemical Foundations of Living Systems, Chemical and Physical Foundations of Biological Systems, Psychological, Social, and Biological Foundations of Behavior, and Critical Analysis and Reasoning Skills | Electronic |

2. Do research on the different tests and which test your graduate school of choice accepts.

- o What is their mid-range score? _____
- o What is their mid-range GPA? _____
- o Do you need a higher score to compensate for a lower GPA? _____
- o What is your target score? _____

3. Take a **full-length practice test** to provide yourself a baseline score. Although you might not want to know what your baseline score is, this is an important step in the process to help you identify how much effort and time you need to invest in order to hit your target score. Three terrific resources are listed below for FREE full-length practice tests:
 - **TERC**- online resource through the College of Charleston library databases with three full length practice tests and e-books
 - **Learning Express Library**- online resource through the College of Charleston library databases with practice tests and e-books
 - Kaplan practice test that gives you a breakdown of the specific subset of question types that you need to study (www.kaptest.com/practice)
4. Take your **study timeline** and divide it in half—with your practice test on one side and your actual test at the end. Plan to do at least one practice test in the middle to gauge how effective your studying has been.



5. **Focus** on the portions of the test that you struggle with, not the portions you have already mastered. Taking many practice tests from multiple sources (each one writes things a little differently) will ensure a smoother test day.
6. Realize that you can **use the tutoring services** of the CSL Math Lab to help with any quantitative sections, the CSL Writing Lab to help with writing portions, and the Science Lab to help with the MCAT science sections.
7. Consider utilizing **outside sources** to study such as:
 1. Books on permanent reserve at the CofC Library
 2. Free videos and tutorials for all exams from <http://magoosh.com/>
 3. Free practice MCAT test from AAMC
 4. Free practice LSAT test from LSAC
 5. Vocab Rootology app for iPhones (99 cents)
 6. NextStep Test Prep (offers discounted MCAT practice exams)

