

# *Graduate Admission Committees: The Application Process*



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## What Do Universities Want?

- Universities need to show that they are successful.
- Their graduates are leaders in their fields.
- Their professors are leaders in research.

Prestigious research projects

Research dollars

Talented Master's and Ph.D. students

# What Are Universities Looking For? Test Scores

Most universities require that post graduate applicants take the Graduate Record Exam (GRE).

Many universities & departments require discipline specific GRE exam scores also.

Minimum acceptable scores vary between universities and within universities; so, you must determine what is required where you want to go.

# **What Are Universities Looking For?**

## **Past Academic Performance**

**Your overall GPA & official transcripts**

**Class standing or rank**

**Quality of the undergraduate institution**

**Your grades in the major and especially upper division courses and in the past two years**

**Signs of improvement if you did not have a strong start**

# Grade Point Av. ([http://home.vef.gov/download/conversion\\_table.htm](http://home.vef.gov/download/conversion_table.htm))

4 Scale	10 Scale
3.95 - 4.00	10.00
3.90 - 3.94	9.75
3.85 - 3.89	9.50
3.80 - 3.84	9.20
3.75 - 3.79	9.00
3.70 - 3.74	8.80
3.65 - 3.69	8.60
3.60 - 3.64	8.40
3.55 - 3.59	8.20
3.50 - 3.54	8.00
3.40 - 3.44	7.80
3.30 - 3.39	7.60
3.20 - 3.29	7.40
3.10 - 3.19	7.20
3.00 - 3.09	7.00

5 Scale	10 Scale
4.95 - 4.99	10.00
4.90 - 4.94	9.90
4.85 - 4.89	9.80
4.80 - 4.84	9.70
4.75 - 4.79	9.60
4.70 - 4.74	9.50
4.65 - 4.69	9.40
4.60 - 4.64	9.30
4.55 - 4.59	9.20
4.50 - 4.54	9.10
4.45 - 4.49	9.00
4.40 - 4.44	8.80
4.35 - 4.39	8.60
4.30 - 4.34	8.40
4.25 - 4.29	8.20
4.20 - 4.24	8.00
4.15 - 4.19	7.80
4.10 - 4.14	7.60
4.05 - 4.09	7.40
4.00 - 4.04	7.20
5.00	7.00

7 Scale	10 Scale
6.95 - 6.99	10.00
6.90 - 6.94	9.90
6.85 - 6.89	9.80
6.80 - 6.84	9.70
6.75 - 6.79	9.60
6.70 - 6.74	9.50
6.65 - 6.69	9.40
6.60 - 6.64	9.30
6.55 - 6.59	9.20
6.50 - 6.54	9.10
6.45 - 6.49	9.00
6.40 - 6.44	8.90
6.35 - 6.39	8.80
6.30 - 6.34	8.70
6.25 - 6.29	8.60
6.20 - 6.24	8.50
6.15 - 6.19	8.40
6.10 - 6.14	8.30
6.05 - 6.09	8.20
6.00 - 6.04	8.10
5.90 - 5.99	8.00
5.80 - 5.89	7.95
5.70 - 5.79	7.90
5.60 - 5.69	7.85
5.50 - 5.59	7.80
5.40 - 5.49	7.75
5.30 - 5.31	7.70
5.20 - 5.29	7.65

20 Scale	10 Scale
20.00	10.00
19.90	9.95
19.80	9.90
19.70	9.85
19.60	9.80
19.50	9.75
19.40	9.70
19.30	9.65
19.20	9.60
19.10	9.55
19.00	9.50
18.90	9.45
18.80	9.40
18.70	9.35
18.60	9.30
18.50	9.25
18.40	9.20
18.30	9.15
18.20	9.10
18.10	9.05
18.00	9.00
17.90	8.95
17.80	8.90
17.70	8.85
17.60	8.80
17.50	8.75
17.40	8.70
17.30	8.65

100 Scale	10 Scale
100	10.00
99	9.90
98	9.80
97	9.70
96	9.60
95	9.50
94	9.40
93	9.30
92	9.20
91	9.10
90	9.00
89	8.90
88	8.80
87	8.70
86	8.60
85	8.50
84	8.40
83	8.30
82	8.20
81	8.10
80	8.00
79	7.90
78	7.80
77	7.70
76	7.60
75	7.50
74	7.40
73	7.30

# **What Are Universities Looking For? English Skills**

**Minimum acceptable TOEFL scores vary between universities and within universities; so, you must determine what is required where you want to go.**

**A well written Statement of Purpose or Personal Statement is your opportunity to promote yourself – talents, skills, achievements, goals.**

# What Are Universities Looking For? Recommendations

Personal knowledge of the applicant is always best

Second best, is a recommendation from a trusted colleague

Third best, is a reference letter from someone who knows the applicant's academic talents, work ethic, and attitude.

# Resources

Websites of the graduate schools and departments you will apply to (requirements & deadlines).

**About.com**

<http://gradschool.about.com/>

**Thompson Peterson's online guide to graduate schools:**

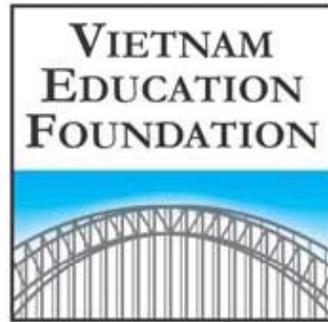
[http://www.petersons.com/graduate\\_home.asp?path=gr.home](http://www.petersons.com/graduate_home.asp?path=gr.home)

**educationUSA:**

<http://educationusa.state.gov/graduate/about/degrees.htm>

**About Graduate School:**

<http://gradschool.about.com/cs/generaladvice/a/guide.htm>



***Good Luck!***