Overview of reasons for #GRExit

- GRE cost limits ability of many students to apply to grad school
- GRE isn’t offered everywhere, forcing students to travel to take it (further limiting ability of many students to apply to grad school)
- GRE was not designed to be a good indicator of success in a PhD program
- Research studies have shown that GRE scores are not correlated with PhD program success
- Research studies have shown that GRE scores are correlated with gender, ethnicity
Gre and grad application costs

- **Gre cost**: $205/test in US. $205-$255 elsewhere. Students with high scores typically take it more than once. Avg number is twice.
- Can send scores to 4 schools. Additional schools are $27/school.
- Many students have to travel to take it – further increasing costs.
- Prep classes are $1000 or more.
- Application fee: $90 (at USC). Fees range from $50-$150.
- Total cost (if apply to 10 schools, which is conservative):
  - Gre: $510
  - Additional scores: $27*6
  - Application fees: $1000
  - **Total: $1,672**
- Additional costs:
  - Prep class: $1000
  - Travel to take Gre: ??
Changing tide

In past year, the number of Bio/Chem/Biomed/Physics that don’t require GRE has gone from ~12 to ~100.

This list includes (not all programs at all schools):

- Harvard
- MIT
- Northwestern
- Purdue
- Caltech
- Cornell
- Emory
- Indiana
- Stanford
- Berkeley
- U Michigan
- USC

At some schools, other engineering programs are also included (e.g. EE at MIT).

Once there is a critical number, the GRE requirement may become a deciding factor for students when choosing schools, particularly given the cost.

David G. Payne, vice president of global education for the Educational Testing Service (ETS), which administers the GRE, says the test was designed to identify candidates who have the academic ability needed for graduate school. “The GRE test was never intended to predict PhD completion,” he says.
Research: Biomedical Engineering, UNC

Research: Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt

Research: Physics, multiple institutions

Links to references

• https://cen.acs.org/education/graduate-education/future-GRE/97/i5

• https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2019/05/wave-graduate-programs-drop-gre-application-requirement

• https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0169121

• https://journals.plos.org/plosone/article?id=10.1371/journal.pone.0166742

• https://advances.sciencemag.org/content/5/1/eaat7550