

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: $\$27 \times 6$
 - 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

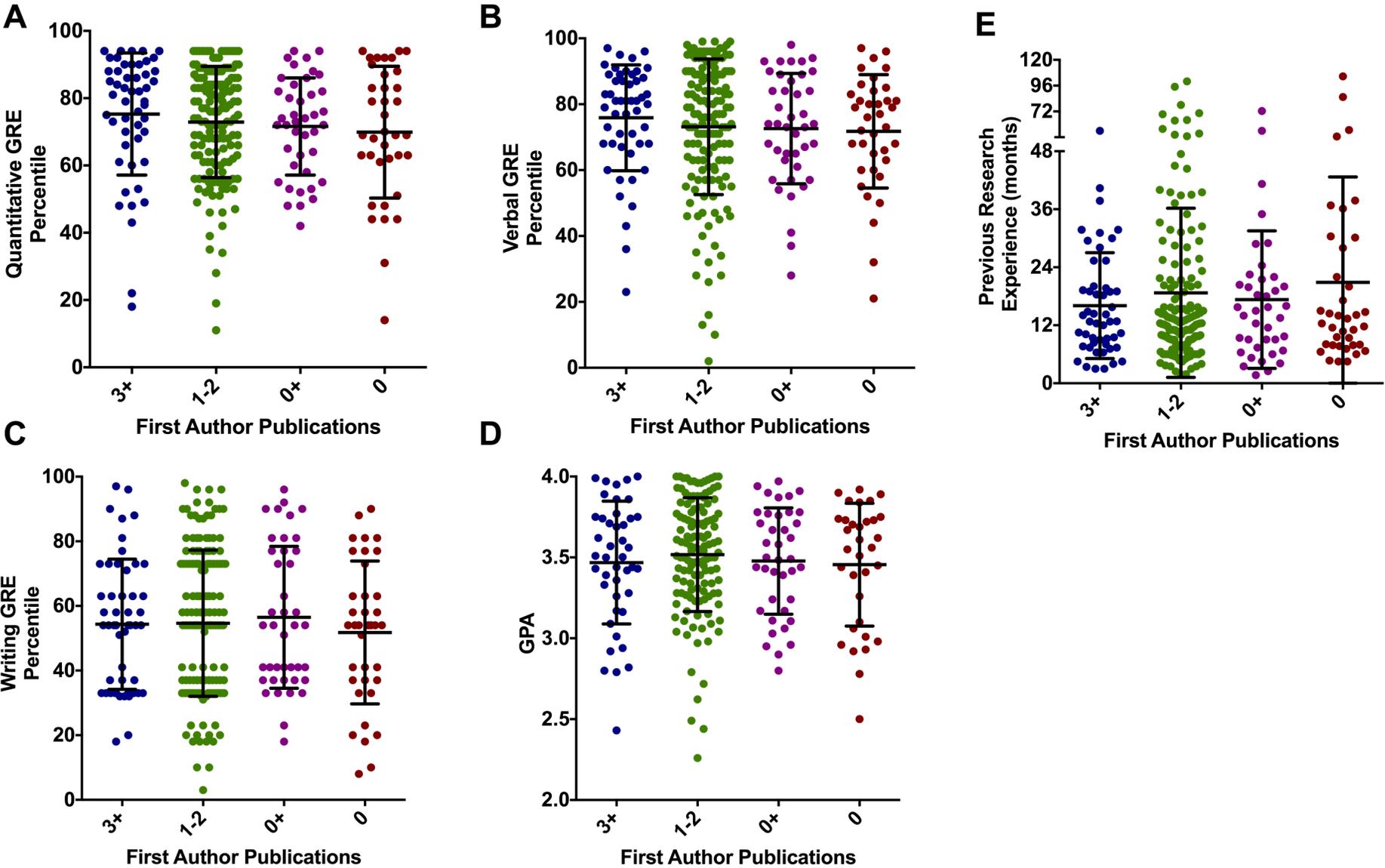
At some schools, other engineering programs are also included (e.g. EE at MIT).

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

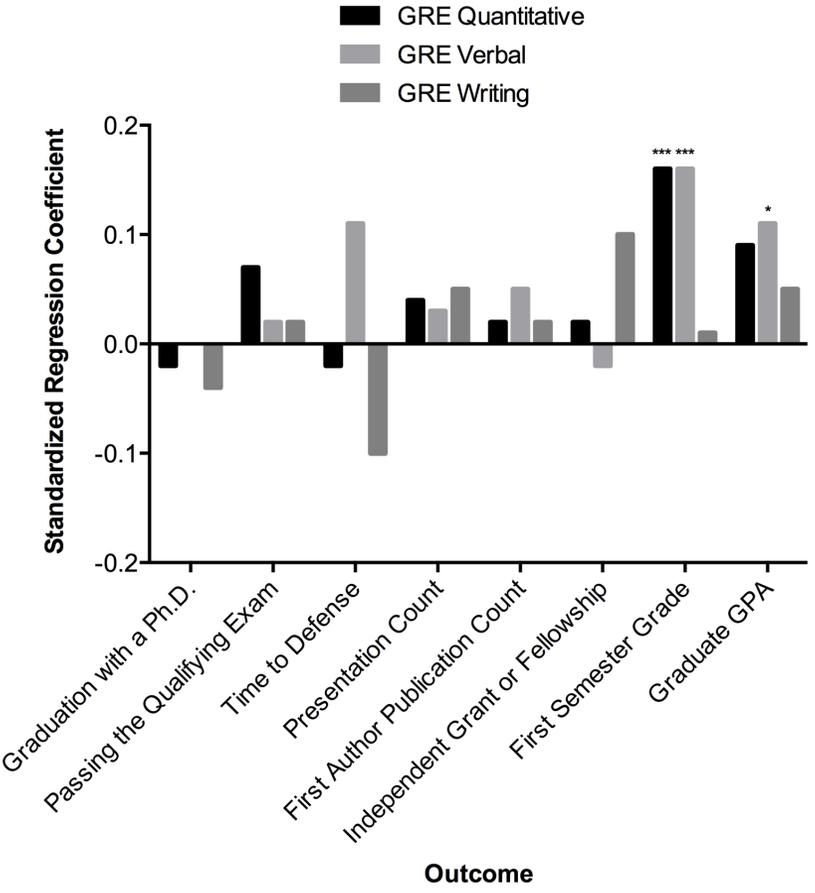
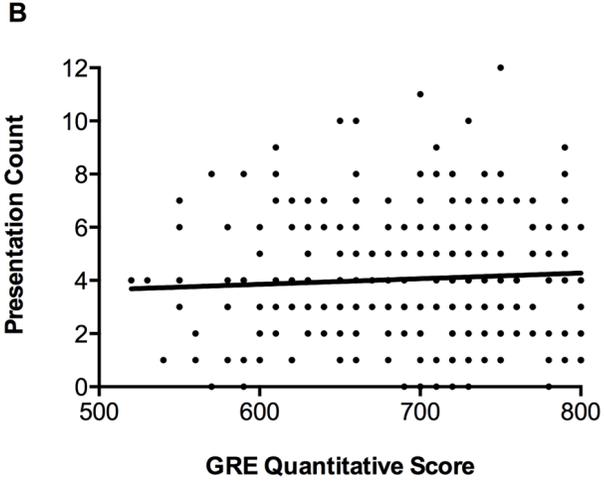
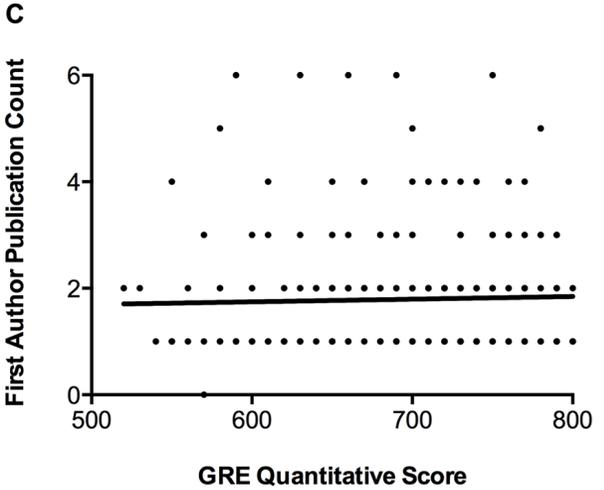
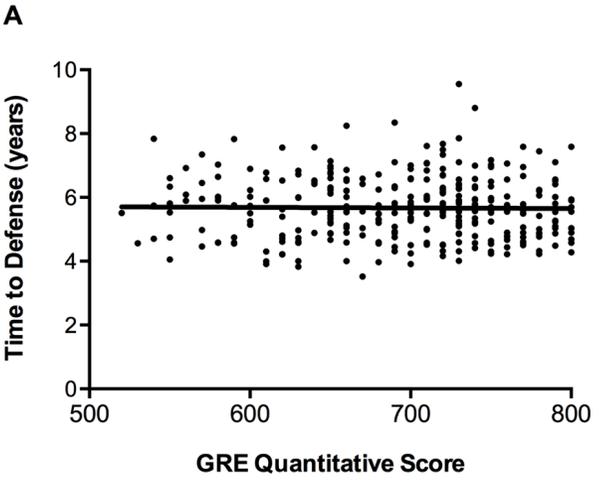
What should the GRE test? *according to ETS*

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.

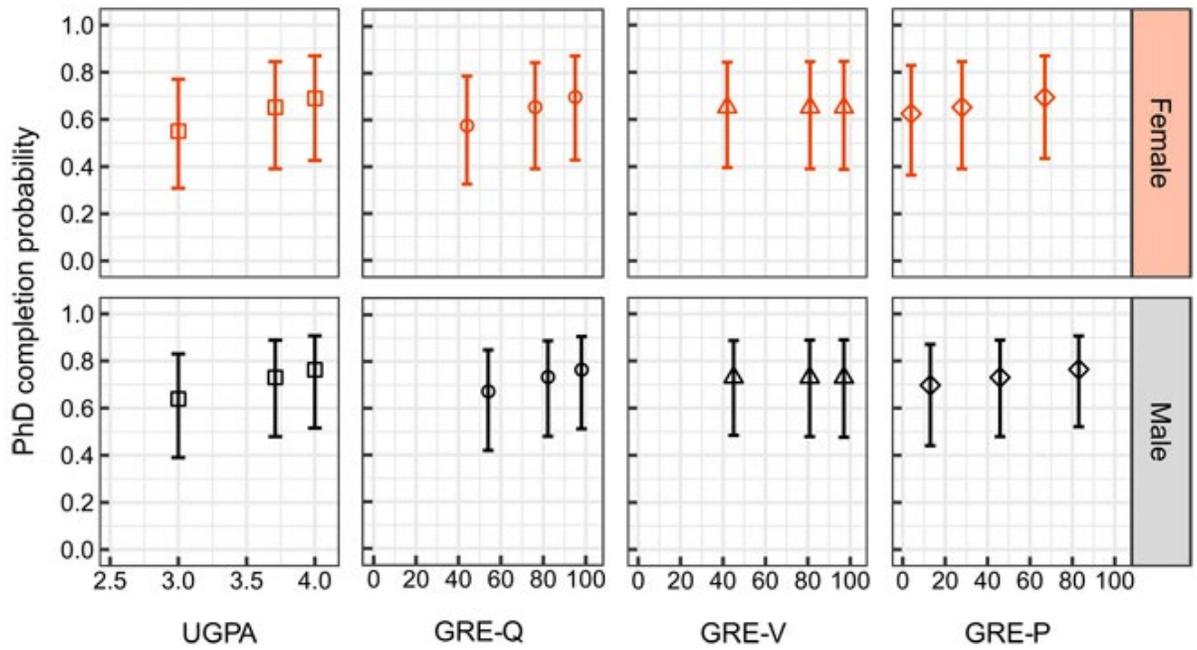
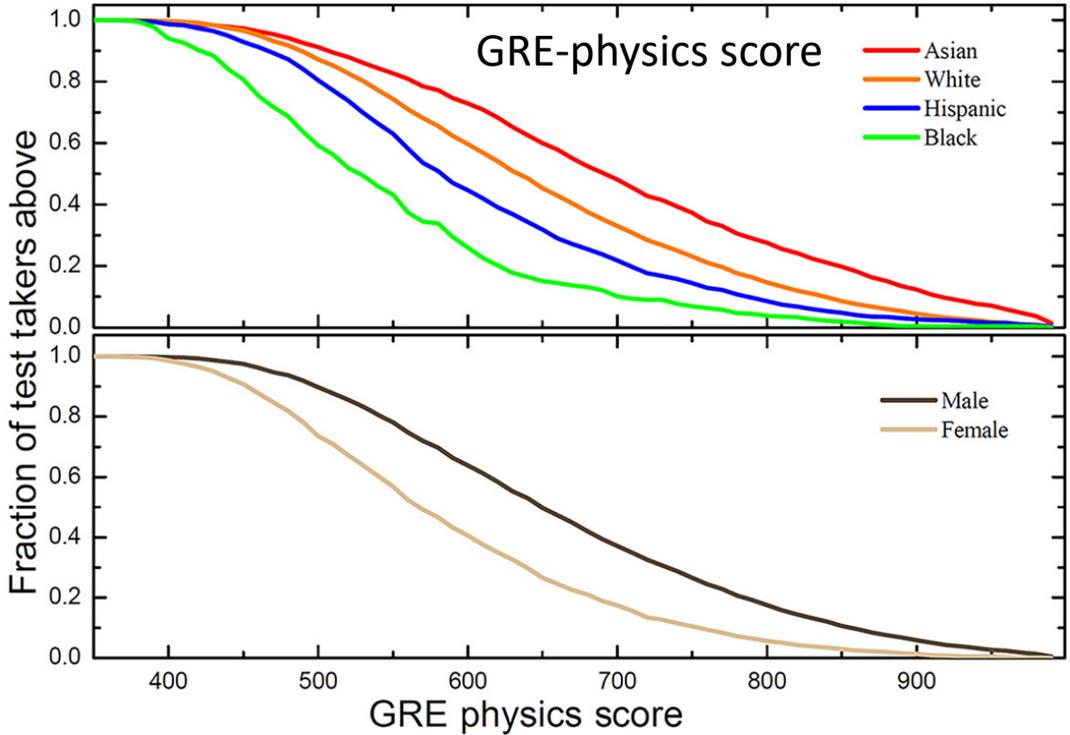
Research: Biomedical Engineering, UNC



Research: Biomedical Engineering, Vanderbilt



Research: Physics, multiple institutions



Miller, C., et al, Typical physics PhD admissions criteria limit access to underrepresented groups but fail to predict doctoral completion, Science Advances 5(1):eaat7550 (2019).

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>
- <https://www.sciencemag.org/careers/2017/06/gres-dont-predict-grad-school-success-what-does>