**Frequently Asked Questions:**

**Graduate Records Exam (GRE)**

**FAQ:** Does the Bren School require a GRE subject exam?
No. Bren School MESM or PhD applicants are only required to complete the GRE General Test. For more information about how, where, and when to take the GRE, visit the [ETS website](https://www.ets.org).

**FAQ:** I am trying to send me GRE test scores from ETS to UCSB, but I don’t see a departmental code for the Bren School of Environmental Science & Management. How should I proceed?
Applicants should instruct ETS to report scores to UCSB (institution code 4835). You do not need to provide a departmental code when sending your scores because you can only apply to one graduate program at UCSB per application cycle, so your scores will be paired with your unique application. If its requires you to indicate a department code, use your discretion to choose a department name that most closely aligns with Environmental Science and Management. Again, the most important thing to input correctly is UCSB’s graduate institution code of 4835.

When completing the Exams section of your [UCSB e-Application](https://www.ets.org), please provide your test date, registration number, and self-reported scores, as this information will allow the Graduate Division to match your official scores to your online application.

**FAQ:** Do my official GRE scores need to be received by UCSB from ETS by the application deadline?
No, though self-reported scores should be input, as applicants are expected to complete the GRE test in advance of the application deadline.

**FAQ:** Is there a way I can confirm that UCSB received my official GRE test scores?
The Bren School does not have access to any part of a prospective student's application until after it has been formally submitted and paid for. Therefore, if you wish to confirm that your official GRE test scores have been received before you submit your e-Application, please contact the UCSB Graduate Division at [gradadmissions@graddiv.ucsb.edu](mailto:gradadmissions@graddiv.ucsb.edu) or at (805) 893-2277. If you wish to confirm that your scores have been received after you have formally submitted your application, you may inquire about their status directly with the Bren School Admission’s team at [admissions@bren.ucsb.edu](mailto:admissions@bren.ucsb.edu) or by calling (805) 893-4886.

**FAQ:** I took the GRE but am unsatisfied with my scores. Should I retake them?
We cannot tell you if you should retake the GRE. What we can tell you is that there is no minimum GRE score required by UCSB or the Bren School, and that UCSB will only consider the most recent scores it receives, not the best of multiple scores. It is not possible to mix and match the highest scores from different tests.

GRE scores are not viewed as a key determinant of academic ability but rather a secondary consideration that may help us to understand the applicant’s overall academic preparedness. For instance, if an applicant’s transcripts show a history of struggling with quantitative subjects, a faculty reviewer might look at the applicant’s GRE Quantitative scores to assess if the applicant is still struggling with these topics. If an applicant did well in math, economics, or other quantitatively driven courses but scored below average on the GRE Quantitative section, the faculty would place less value in the GRE scores.

**FAQ:** Will the Bren School accept scores from other entrance exams (such as the GMAT) in lieu of GRE scores?
No, the GRE is required for all UCSB graduate degree programs, except Art Studio. Visit the Graduate Division’s [How to Apply](https://www.ets.org) page for more details regarding this requirement.