

GRE Retake Decision Worksheet

Evidence-Based Retake Analysis - Updated Dec 2025

SECTION 1: CURRENT PERCENTILE ASSESSMENT

Your current Verbal percentile

Your current Quantitative percentile

Your current Writing percentile

Target program typical percentile ranges (research required)

SECTION 2: GAP ANALYSIS

Percentile gap in priority section

Is gap 10+ percentile points? Yes No

Is gap in the section your field prioritizes? Yes No

SECTION 3: IMPROVEMENT PROBABILITY

Previous preparation intensity (1-5 scale)

Specific weaknesses identified?

Yes No

Time available for focused preparation

____ weeks

Realistic improvement estimate

____ percentile points

Tip: A realistic retake plan is built around specific weaknesses, targeted practice, and enough time to change outcomes.

SECTION 4: OPPORTUNITY COST

What else could this time strengthen?

- Research experience
- Publication / conference presentation
- Recommendation letter relationships
- Statement of purpose development

DECISION FRAMEWORK

Retake recommended if:

- Gap is 10+ percentile points in the priority section
- Clear improvement strategy identified
- Time available (8+ weeks) for preparation
- No higher-value uses of time available

Don't retake if:

- Gap is <5 percentile points
- Already tested twice with minimal improvement
- Percentiles already 85th+ in all sections
- Other application components need more attention

Reminder: Safety for admission is not the same as safety for funding. Research fit and profile still matter.