

GRE Application Deadline Reverse Planning Worksheet

Calculate Your Optimal Test Date Timeline

How to use this worksheet (3 steps)

List programs and enter each **Application Deadline**. **Work backward** using the built-in buffers:

- **Score Arrival Date Needed** = Deadline - 15 days
- **Latest Safe Test Date** = Score Arrival Date Needed - 14 days **Plan prep**: Choose your **Preparation Timeline (weeks)** and count back from the Latest Safe Test Date to set your **Latest Preparation Start Date**.

Program Planning Grid

Program Name	Application Deadline	Score Arrival Date Needed (Deadline - 15 days)	Latest Safe Test Date (Score Needed - 14 days)	Preparation Timeline (weeks)	Latest Preparation Start Date
Example: MS Computer Science	Dec 01, 2024	Nov 16, 2024	Nov 02, 2024	10	Aug 24, 2024
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____
_____	_____	_____	_____	_____	_____

Buffer recommendation: Add an **8-week safety buffer** for optimal planning (earlier is better during peak testing months).

Special considerations / Notes (write anything that affects timing, e.g., score recipients, test center availability, accommodations, retake plan):