



# THE GMAT® PREP TIMELINE




A step-by-step study guide, plus resources and tips to make your study efforts more effective and efficient.






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Get more details at [MBA.COM](https://mba.com)

<b>TEST SCHOOL CHOICES:</b>	<b>GMAT APPOINTMENT:</b>	<b>NOTES:</b>
_____	DAY: _____	_____
_____	DATE: _____	_____
_____	TIME: _____	_____
_____	LOCATION: _____	_____
_____	_____	_____
<b>TARGET SCORE:</b> _____	_____	_____

Preparation pays off by using official tools.  
Access free test prep and business school resources at [mba.com](https://mba.com).

 **RECOMMENDATION:** Start at least six months before test results are due. You are the best judge of how much time you need to prepare.

	PLANNING			STUDYING	FINAL PREP		TESTING	RESULTS
	STEP 1	STEP 2	STEP 3	STEP 4	STEP 5	STEP 6	STEP 7	STEP 8
	GATHER INFO ABOUT YOUR TARGET PROGRAMS	REGISTER & PLAN	ESTABLISH YOUR SKILLS BASELINE	STUDY ... STUDY ... STUDY ...	ASSESS YOUR PROGRESS	HOME STRETCH	TESTING	SCORING
<b>MILESTONES</b> 	Identify schools' application deadlines and GMAT score ranges. <i>(Fill in above)</i>  Set your target score. <i>(Fill in above)</i>	Research test centers near you using "Find a GMAT Test Center," on <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>  Register for the GMAT exam. <i>(Fill in above)</i>  Develop your study plan and schedule.	Familiarize yourself with the exam format, question types, and test timing.  Take a GMATPrep practice exam to identify the skills you need to study most.	Study using the free practice questions in the GMATPrep software.  Review your progress reports and plan strategies to improve your weak areas in pacing and question types.	Take your second GMATPrep practice exam.	Keep studying through the home stretch!	Take the GMAT exam; get <b>unofficial</b> scores.	<b>CONGRATULATIONS. RELAX &amp; CELEBRATE.</b> You and your schools should allow <b>about 20 days</b> to receive your official GMAT scores.
<b>RESOURCES</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Explore <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a> for information on specific schools and programs, GMAT® exam, and GMAT prep materials.</li> <li>Ask the Experts blog</li> <li>Official GMAT blog</li> <li>Find recruiting events near you.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Register at <a href="https://mba.com/gmatregistration">mba.com/gmatregistration</a>.</li> <li>Download the GMAT Handbook. It tells you everything you need to know and agree to before you take the GMAT exam. <a href="https://mba.com/bulletin">mba.com/bulletin</a></li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Download the free GMATPrep® software at <a href="https://mba.com/gmatprep">mba.com/gmatprep</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Download "Analysis of an Argument" essay topics found on the Analytical Writing Assessment page at <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>.</li> <li>Use the GMATPrep software to review progress report and develop strategies to develop your performance on specific question types.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Use the GMATPrep software to review GMAT exam myths and general test-taking strategies.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Access more study products at <a href="https://mba.com/store">mba.com/store</a>.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Take a video tour of the test center at <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>.</li> <li>Get ready for the big day with tips from students like you at <a href="https://mba.com">mba.com</a>.</li> </ul> 	
<b>TIPS</b> 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Start a minimum of six months before test results are due to schools.</li> <li>Plan to prepare for the GMAT in the way you learn best — classes, tutoring, study groups, or self-study.</li> <li>Give yourself enough time to retake the exam if things don't go as planned.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The further in advance you register the greater your choice of available dates to take the exam.</li> <li>GMAT experts recommend studying twice a week.</li> <li>Mix up different question types and exam sections in your study schedule.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replicate actual test conditions as you practice. Don't use a calculator or study materials.</li> <li>Keep an eye on the clock; remember the timer turns yellow when you have five minutes or less left to complete a section.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Study for the GMAT exam until you are comfortable with the test — question formats, test timing, and pacing techniques.</li> <li>Pacing is important. There's a significant penalty for not finishing the GMAT exam.</li> <li>If you're spending too much time on a question, guess and move on.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Replicate actual test conditions, time yourself, and don't use a calculator or study materials.</li> <li>Revisit strategies for specific question types.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Remember to review your strong areas, and devote extra time to your weak spots.</li> <li>Plan to get a good night's rest and review what you can and can't take to the testing center.</li> <li>Remember what schools you want to send scores to.</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Allow extra time to get to the test center so you don't have to rush to make your appointment.</li> </ul>	