



The GMAT Score – the Lowdown

Your GMAT score - this one number can cause a lot of stress. Let's take a closer look at the breakdown of the GMAT score system. You will receive four different scores after taking the GMAT.

- 1) **Quantitative:** a scaled sub-score of 0-60 points
- 2) **Verbal:** a scaled sub-score of 0-60 points
- 3) **Overall:** a scaled score of 200-800 points, 800 being the perfect score.
- 4) **Analytical Writing Assessment:** a score from 0-6 in half point intervals. This is a separate score that is less important than the 200-800 score.

For each of these scores, you will receive a percentile rank. Each rank, based on the results of the previous three years of GMAT takers, indicates the percentage of test-takers who scored below you.

For example, Brandon scored a 780, which is in the 99th percentile. This means that in the three years before Brandon took the GMAT, 99% of GMAT takers scored lower than he did.

It should be stressed, once again, that it is important not to leave any questions unanswered on the GMAT test. Since your score will be calculated based upon the number of questions answered, it will decrease significantly if you skip any questions. In any uncertain cases, use the power of elimination and take an educated guess! Your unofficial score will be available to you immediately, on the same computer screen as you took your test on just minutes before. Within 20 calendar days, your official score report will be available to you, either online or through the mail. When scheduling your GMAT appointment, you can choose either option for receiving your results.

So what is the average GMAT score?

As for the "average" GMAT score, it depends very much on where you wish to apply. The median worldwide score has been quoted at 570, however, for the top MBA programs this is much higher. You can see just how competitive the top MBA programs are below;

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Average GMAT Score - the Lowdown

from "30 Day GMAT Success" <http://www.30daygmatsuccess.com>

by Brandon Wu (GMAT Score: 780, 99 percentile)

Harvard: 720
Wharton: 710
Stanford: 720
Sloan: 710
Yale: 710

The average GMAT score varies year by year, and for the schools you are choosing to apply to, it is best to contact the admissions office to find this information out. It is always best to aim much higher than the average score for that school to remain ahead of the competition and be accepted in the first review. GMAT scores are not everything (your application process includes references, essays and sometimes interviews), but a high score will certainly help to make your application stand out. The figures below are rough indicators of the average GMAT score based on percentiles (the percentage of people scoring below this score- these scores will vary each year).

96-99th percentile = 720
79-90th percentile = 630
61-75th percentile = 570
37-50th percentile = 500



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GMAT questions are dynamically selected as you take the test, using the Computer Adaptive system. The computer uses your answer to each question to determine the next questions presented to you. This allows you to obtain a score that reflects the level of difficulty of the questions that you answer correctly. If you answer a question correctly, the next question will be harder: if you answer a question incorrectly, the next question will be easier.

What is important is that you embark on a study schedule which aims to improve your score in the most effective way possible, and use techniques to allow the system to place you at a higher rank and continue to give you harder questions. Study effectively, and you can be on the way to a great GMAT score and in the top percentage of all GMAT takers. The competition is high – beat it today!



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