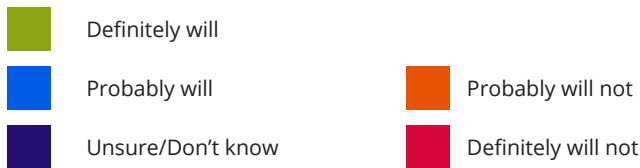
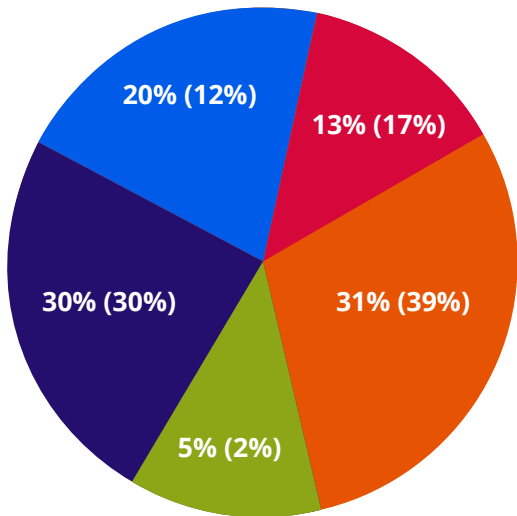


Law Schools Warm Up to the GRE®

A Kaplan Test Prep Survey

Every year, Kaplan Test Prep surveys admissions officers from the nation's 200+ American Bar Association (ABA)-accredited law schools to ensure that students receive accurate and up-to-date information on trends in the law school admissions process. In spring 2017, we surveyed them on one of the most significant issues on the admissions landscape: the possibility of the GRE becoming a viable alternative to the LSAT®. As of late November, eleven law schools, including some of the most competitive, offer this admissions option for applicants. Our survey finds this number is likely to increase.

Is your law school considering allowing applicants to submit GRE scores as an alternative to submitting LSAT scores?*



* Numbers in parentheses reflect percentages from Kaplan's 2016 survey.

Among the shrinking plurality of law schools who say they plan to remain LSAT-only, admissions officers largely said they were not sold on the idea that the GRE is as predictive as the LSAT is in determining first-year success in law school.

"We're waiting to see the outcomes of Harvard and Arizona—not only how the students have done while in school, but also bar passage rate."

"We'd have to do some significant research that the GRE is an effective test for measuring law school performance. Given our size, we probably wouldn't have the number of students who have taken the GRE do that sort of study here."

"Many people here don't hold the same opinion about the validity of the GRE. We would also like to know the ABA's disposition. Validity studies cost money and, with law schools strapped for cash, that's not easy."

"The ABA hasn't fully weighed in on it yet, and we don't want to have a new enrollment method only to not have it available down the road."

Law schools that plan to begin accepting the GRE offered a range of reasons, often expressing concerns that, if they don't, they will be at a student recruitment disadvantage.

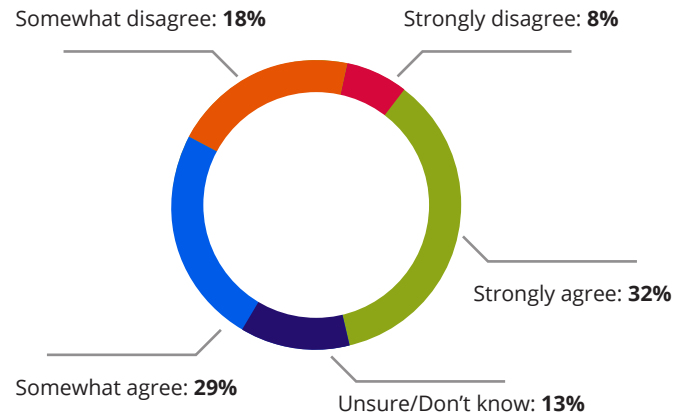
"We plan to do it in part because Harvard is doing it. When they do things, people tend to fall in line, thinking it's right."

"I'm thinking that it's going to become the norm. It's one of those situations where you're going to be left behind."

"Accessibility. The GRE is offered every day of year, and prospective students don't have to register so far in advance. Plus there are more test centers."

"We have a range of applicants, many of whom are interested in non-traditional careers that would be better served by having them take the GRE."

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the following statements about why some law schools might consider accepting the GRE in addition to the LSAT?



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Law schools shared strong and varied opinions about the possibility of the ABA jumping into the fray. Admissions officers who favor the ABA's involvement said:

"They need to pick a side...I feel the process should be fairly unified. I want the ABA to be more definitive so we are playing from the same book."

"It would make it easier for all of us to have a concrete statement."

"The ABA is the accrediting body of law schools. It would be helpful to get their sense on the validity of the GRE."

Admissions officers who are against the ABA's involvement said:

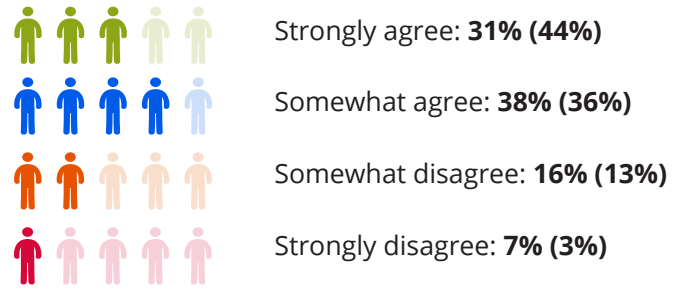
"They are notorious for making decisions in a vacuum without getting input from law schools. They don't have a good understanding of what they are regulating. Most don't have experience in higher education or law school administration."

"I don't think blanket statements are a good idea. I think the ABA is right to come up with a process. There needs to be a rigorous validation process in place."

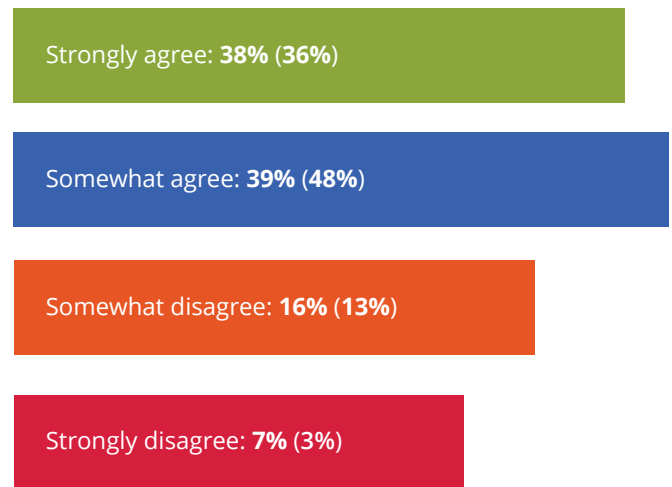
"We need some flexibility to determine whether the GRE will work and this will require a bit of research. I wouldn't want the ABA to issue a blanket statement."

How strongly do you agree or disagree with the the following statement: The American Bar Association should make a blanket statement saying that law schools are permitted or not permitted to allow applicants to submit GRE scores?*

Law schools want a more diverse pool of applicants and students.



Law schools are concerned about filling seats because of dropping/stagnant application numbers.



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* Numbers in parentheses reflect percentages from Kaplan's 2016 survey.

Based on the results of a Kaplan Test Prep survey conducted by phone in May 2017 of 128 law schools, including 18 of the top 30, as ranked by U.S. News & World Report.

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