Graduate Record Exam (GRE) Preparation
For PhD in Public Policy Cohort Applicants

Why is the GRE required as part of the application?
While the GRE is required as part of the application for the PhD in Public Policy with a Concentration in Educational Leadership and Policy it is not meant to be high stakes. Rather, it is a piece of data meant to complement the other admission requirements and to provide the admissions committee with insight further into candidates' verbal reasoning, quantitative reasoning, analytical writing, and critical thinking skills that are not easily discernible on graduate level transcripts. The admissions committee will not base decisions on GRE scores. It will be one piece of data among many.

What scores are needed to pass the GRE?
Applicants must have earned a score of either 1,000 points or above (for tests taken before 9/1/2011) or 300 or above (for tests taken on or after 9/1/2011) on the combined Verbal and Quantitative subtests of the Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

What if I have previously taken the GRE?
GRE scores are valid for five years after the testing year. You can request your official scores from 2010 – present by setting up a MY GRE account here: http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/scores/get/

Where do I register and take the GRE?
You need to register for the GRE test through the ETS.org website. You'll need to create a MY GRE account. Computer-delivered GRE tests are more readily accessible with more flexibility in scheduling. There are no test dates available for the paper-delivered GRE in Maine during the PhD cohort application cycle. Computer test centers are located in Bangor, Presque Isle, and South Portland at the Prometric Centers.
http://www.ets.org/gre

Plan accordingly. Official test results can take 10-15 days after your test date. Also, it can take time to schedule the test if you have a preference for day and time, and location.

What are the costs?
The fee to take the GRE test is $195.

How do I get my scores to USM?
Your official GRE scores can be sent directly to our UMS Central Processing Center (see admission application instructions for address and email). At the time of the test you will be asked where to send the test results.
How can I better prepare myself for the GRE?
The GRE test site is the best place to start. The site has individual areas of test preparation for each of the sections of the GRE that include sample pools of questions and strategies. There is even a practice test for free download.

http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/

- Analytical Writing: http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/analytical_writing/
- Verbal Reasoning: http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/verbal_reasoning/
- Quantitative Reasoning: http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/quantitative_reasoning/

Another website that may be helpful is the Khan Academy. GRE has direct links to different math sections to help with the quantitative reasoning section of the GRE.
http://www.ets.org/gre/revised_general/prepare/khan_academy/