

## Frequently Asked Questions

### General Application Questions:

- 1. Why does the online 'status check' show that my test scores were not received?**  
It may take up to four weeks for scores to be sent to UW-Madison. If any information on the test is different from the information you provided on your application (family name, surname, birth date or gender), the test scores may not match to your application.
- 2. How do I check the status of my online application?**  
Use the email link you received after you submitted your online application **or** log onto your online application and scroll to the bottom of the page to find your personal web link.
- 3. How do people apply for Research Assistantships?**  
There are none to apply for at admission time. RA's come from advisors' grants.
- 4. What is the application deadline?**
  - What are the prerequisites (e.g. GRE score, GPA, Math GRE score, etc)?
  - What is the cost of tuition?
  - What is the availability of assistantships/fellowships?All of the information regarding tuition, application deadline, etc is on our website [www.math.wisc.edu](http://www.math.wisc.edu) and the one through the graduate school: <http://www.wisc.edu/grad/education/mas/634.html>
- 5. How many students on average do you accept into the program each year?**  
We get over 400 applications for the 20-25 slots available.
- 6. In comparison to the number of students who enter the program, how many of them successfully complete it?**  
About 90% of the students who enter the program complete it. Students who leave do so mostly for personal reasons.

**7. Is December 31 the deadline for all applicants or just domestic applicants? Does the deadline for international students differ from that day? And if I want to have financial support, do I have to apply much earlier?**

The December 31st deadline is the deadline for all students. All applicants to the PhD program are automatically considered for all available financial support.

**8. Is there a minimum GPA for the Math Program?**

Admission is competitive. There are no minimal requirements. Applicants are simply advised to present the strongest case they can. We also don't keep records of average GPA, but most of our successful applicants have received mostly A's (for those students from American Universities) in their coursework in mathematics. However, strong recommendations from faculty members carry higher weight than grades in our considerations.

**9. Do you accept students in the Spring Semester?**

Admission is always for the subsequent Fall Semester. Entering the program in the Spring is less feasible because of the structure of beginning graduate courses.

**10. Are students from small liberal arts colleges accepted or are the concentration of accepted students from large universities?**

We have a long history of accepting students from liberal arts schools, and having those students do well at Madison.

**11. How can I tell if my qualifications match your school's standards before submitting my application?**

It's very hard to give exact answers to questions about GRE, GPA, and coursework taken because much depends on the qualifications of the other applicants as well as on your letters of recommendation. The best way for you to find out whether UW-Madison is a good match for you is to ask your recommenders. If they think you belong here, they'll say that in their letters. If they think you belong somewhere else (whether higher or lower on the food chain) they'll tell you.

**Other Questions not answered here:**

Check the Graduate School's FAQ (Frequently Asked Questions) section at <http://info.gradsch.wisc.edu/admin/admissions/faq.html>

## **Financial Assistance Questions**

**1. What is the percentage of people who get fully funded into the MS and PhD programs?**

At the moment we look mainly for applicants interested in pursuing the PhD degree. Applicants to the PhD program are automatically considered for financial support. Applicants who do not intend to study beyond the Master's degree are admitted only in exceptional cases.

**2. Do I need to fill out any other forms to apply for an assistantship (Teaching Assistant (TA) or Research Assistant (RA))?**

All of our students are admitted with guaranteed support. This is usually in the form of a Teaching Assistantship. There are no other forms to fill out with the application. As for RA positions, there are none to apply for at admission time. RA's come from advisors' grants and are determined by the advisor.

## **GRE Questions**

**1. If I do not take the subject GRE, am I still eligible to apply for the program?**

Every application receives full consideration. It is up to the applicants to provide us with the best possible evidence of their potential. A missing Math GRE score may place an applicant at a disadvantage.

**2. What part of the general GRE is the most important for the Math Dept?**

The Quantitative section is the most important.

**3. If my GRE scores and TOEFL scores arrive after that date (December 31), is there any chance that I could be accepted?**

The scores do not have to reach us by December 31st but they should be received by January 31st as the applications are evaluated starting in mid January.

**4. What is the GRE Score requirement?**

Math GRE scores are weighed in the context of the applicant's entire file of accomplishments, and therefore there is no precise minimal acceptable Math GRE score. In the past Math GRE scores of admitted students have ranged from 500 to 900.

**5. How old can the GRE score be?**

We prefer of course recent scores. See answer to question 1 above.

## **Recommendations Questions**

**1. My professor says he won't send in his recommendation electronically, can I submit a paper recommendation. The professor said he would send it in a sealed envelope with his signature on it. Will you accept a paper recommendation form?**

We prefer electronic recommendation letters because most of the material looked at by the admissions committee is already on line. Also you can track an electronically sent recommendation to make sure it has been received by the University. But we will accept recommendation letters on paper if necessary.

There is no separate form to fill out. Have your recommender write a letter and send it in a sealed envelope to the Math Department. They can address the letter to the Graduate Admissions Committee. Recommendations can either be sent directly from the recommender

or in a sealed envelope with the recommender's signature on the outside of the envelope and included in any materials you send to the Department...ie) transcripts.

## TOEFL Questions

### 1. What is the minimum TOEFL score?

The required minimum scores are:

TOEFL:           **550** for paper test, **213** for computer, and **80** for internet (iBT)  
MELAB:           77  
IELTS:           6

An applicant whose:

**TOEFL (paper-based)** test score is **below 580**;

**TOEFL computer** based test (CBT) **score below 237**;

**TOEFL internet based** test (**iBT**) **score below 92**; IELTS score below 7; or

MELAB below 82

**must take an English assessment test** upon arrival.

Competitive scores for the TOEFL are 630 (paper), 267 (computer), 109 (iBT) or above.

### 2. How old can my TOEFL score be?

The TOEFL exam must have been taken within 2 years of when you plan on matriculating at the University. For example, if you took your exam in May of 2006, two years later would be May of 2008. August is considered the matriculation date of the University for the Fall Semester. So the TOEFL score would be considered too late and you would need to take the exam again for a more recent score.

### 3. Do I have to send my scores electronically from ETS?

Yes, scores must be submitted electronically from ETS.

## Research Questions

### 1. Do I need to know my research area when I apply?

Not at all. You can spend the first 2 years taking the qualifying exams and developing your mathematical interests.

### Other Questions not answered here:

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