Over the summer of 2017 the MES program completed an internal study of our use of the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) as one of our [mandatory admissions requirements](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/apply). Our goal was to evaluate if GRE scores were a strong indicator of student success in the MES Program. While the MES program has never used a minimum GRE score to assess applicants, and we have strived consistently to holistically evaluate all components of a prospective student’s application, it was time to internally evaluate if requiring the GRE was a practice we should continue.

We thoroughly examined student performance in our [Core Curriculum](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/program) over the last 4 years and analyzed performance against student GRE scores at time of applying. We concluded that the GRE is not a strong enough indicator of student success to continue using it as a base of our admissions decisions. The MES program is not alone in this decision. As more research emerges about the GRE as an assessment tool, and as a barrier to many applicants, we feel confident in our decision to remove it from our admissions requirements.

*Starting with the MES application for Fall 2018, we will no longer require the GRE as part of our mandatory admissions materials.*

**To better assess applicant preparation for the complexity and rigor of environmental studies, we will now require an Analytical Essay**. The Essay component of the application will allow prospective students to display their analytical and writing skills in a format most like what will be asked of them in the MES program. See details about this application requirement and example essays on our [apply page](http://www.evergreen.edu/mes/apply).