

ENTRANCE EXAM TIMELINE

1

PLAN AHEAD

Consider when you want to take your exam and how that aligns with when you want to apply. Additionally, research the recommended MSU courses to take before the exam and make sure to have them completed before you start studying. This will save you time when it comes time to study.

Make sure to take your test at least one month before applying to give yourself time to get your scores back. However, it is recommended that you take the test much earlier so that you have time to take it again, if needed.

If you plan to take the exam during or at the end of a semester, make sure to schedule an easier courseload during that semester to give yourself more time to study.

2

REGISTER

Look up the date when registration will open for your exam.

Register for your exam as soon as you can, as you want to make sure to get your desired date, time, and testing location.

If you need financial aid for exam registration, many exams have a process to apply for reduced registration cost. Make sure to take care of this prior to registration.

3

PREPARE

On average, people spend 3-6 months studying for their exam, depending on how well they know the material and how much time each day they can dedicate to studying.

The best way to see how much you need to study is by taking a diagnostic/practice exam. You can find free practice exams online. Many test prep companies also offer practice exams with their services.

Research test prep methods and materials to find what will work best for you. The two most common methods are self-study or taking a class. The most popular test prep companies are Kaplan and The Princeton Review, which offer content review materials and practice questions/exams.

4

BUILD YOUR STUDY SCHEDULE

Exam preparation classes can be very expensive, so if you are planning to self-study you need a study schedule.

Take 2-3 days before you start studying to research and plan out your study schedule. Additionally, use those 2-3 days to make sure you have all the study materials you need.

Some things to consider and keep in mind:

- Not all study methods will work for everyone. Find and use what works best for you.
- Incorporate break and catch-up days into your study schedule. You will inevitably fall behind on your schedule and this cushion will keep you on track.
- Identify any weaknesses you have in the content. You may need to dedicate more time to studying and practicing this material. This can be identified from your practice/diagnostic test.
- Make sure to track your progress using practice exams. Space these out throughout your study duration.

5

STUDY!

Time to start studying! Try your best to stick to your schedule and use your built-in catch-up days to do so.

Use practice exams to track your progress and identify areas that need to be improved.

Make sure to use your rest days! You do not want to experience burnout halfway into your study regimen. Take some time to take care of yourself and do something that you enjoy!

6

TAKE YOUR EXAM!

Exam time! Before your test, make sure to get a full night's sleep and eat a full and healthy meal. Additionally, make sure to research and bring any necessary materials to your testing site.

Some exams offer a break for lunch, so make sure to pack a healthy lunch to eat during your break!