

With anonymously submitted databases, there are likely to be inherent bias's that shape the data. As mentioned in the module for 2023 the average GRE was 157, for this data set the average was 264! Part of this is due to the fact that the GRE can be taken multiple times and on GradCafe people only submit one score, which is more than likely the score that is used on the application and provided to Gradcafe. A direct comparison from Gradcafe to official data would have discrepancies due to the users having the ability to submit only the data that goes on their application, not every attempt of a test or every potential gpa.

There is also the risk of having data that is incorrect. For this dataset there was an application from International Max Planck Research Schools (IMPRS) that claimed a GRE score of 980! The student most likely entered their score for the subject section of the GRE, not their overall. The max score for the GRE is 340 so the data was significantly skewed by this inaccurate entry. There is a similar issue with GPA, with a GPA of 9.99 being reported. There are also two students with GPA's under 2.0 which in the United States is the typical requirement for an undergraduate degree, and one of them got accepted into a program, which would infer that the GPA reported may not be accurate or on a different scale then te 4.0 that is usually assumed. Any anonymous user can submit to this site and throw off the dataset with bad data.