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The  $k$ -core of a graph is the maximal subgraph of a graph with minimum degree at least  $k$ . A natural generalization of Ramsey numbers is the Ramsey core number  $rc(s,t)$ , which is the least order  $n$  necessary to guarantee that every graph of order  $n$  contains an  $s$ -core or its complement contains a  $t$ -core. We determine a good upper bound for these numbers, which is conjectured to be exact. We also determine some exact values for Ramsey core numbers, both for infinite classes and isolated cases. (Received September 21, 2009)