

# Chapter XIII: SENIOR TEST RESULTS

## Senior Examination in the Major

Who takes it?

All seniors take a senior examination in the major.

When is it administered?

During the senior year.

How long does it take for a student to complete the senior test?

This depends on the test, but the average is about 2 1/2 hours.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the test?

The faculty select the test that best suits their majors.

## SENIOR TESTS AT TRUMAN

AS OF SPRING 1996

MFAT (Major Field Achievement Test)

for Biology

Business (Finance, Management, and Marketing)

Chemistry

Computer Science

Economics

History

Mathematics

Music

Physics

Political Science

Psychology

AICPA (American Institute for Certified Public Accountants)

for Achievement Test for Accounting Graduates (changing to MFAT in  
business administration)

Mosby AssessTest

for Nursing

MLA Cooperative Foreign Language Proficiency Tests  
for French, German, and Spanish

GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) General Test

for Art

Art History

Agricultural Science

Classics (additionally, they may also use a locally designed translation test)

Communication (Journalism and Speech)

Communication Disorders

English

Exercise Science

Health

Philosophy and Religion

Theatre

GRE Subject Examination

for Sociology

ACAT (The Area Concentration Achievement Tests)

for Justice Systems (additionally, they might use a locally designed test)

When are the results typically available?

Usually several months after the test is given. University averages are typically available in the summer for the fiscal year.

What type of information is sought?

Generally information relating to general knowledge in the major. In some cases, the tests provide subscores for particular areas of the major. The GRE General Tests are generally used in majors where there is currently no senior examination appropriate to the major. It generally provides information on analytical, quantitative, and verbal skills.

From whom are the results available?

Assessment and Testing Office and later from Division Offices.

Distribution is regularly made available to whom?

Individual results are communicated to students and their advisors. University, division, and discipline averages are sent to the President, VPAA, Division Heads, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results available by division or discipline?

Yes.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

Usually though not always (this may depend on the test involved).

(General editor's comments)

Senior test scores continue to be a major concern. Last year's scores for those above the fiftieth percentile dropped substantially. Of course, long term results (over several years) are more meaningful. A major problem is that the method of counting such scores between 1991 and 1994 is not comparable to methods currently used. Some attempts have been made to redo the data but the results are less than certain. The last three years are shown on the accompanying graphs. Reportedly, the percent over the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile in FY 1991 was 72.5%. The next two years, it dropped into the middle sixties.

A major problem with comparing numbers from year to year arises from the fact that the university had no formal policy on how to count double-majors and double-degrees. Currently, the system is that if a student takes the same test for two degrees (e.g., BA & BS) that one score counts for both programs. Double-majors who take different tests have each score count for the appropriate major. Those with two option areas in the same major and who take the same test, count it only once.

