

## Chapter X: SENIOR TESTS IN THE MAJOR

*Who takes it?*

All seniors.

*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 2½ hours.

*What office administers it?*

Assessment and Testing Office, Violette Hall 1130.

*Who originates the test?*

The faculty designate the test that best suits their majors.

### SENIOR TESTS AT TRUMAN AS OF FALL 2006

#### MFT (Major Field Test)

in     Accounting  
       Biology  
       Business Administration  
       Chemistry  
       Computer Science  
       Economics  
       History  
       Mathematics  
       Music  
       Physics  
       Political Science  
       Psychology  
       Sociology/Anthropology

#### HESI (Health Education Systems Inc) Exam

in     Nursing

#### CHES (Certified Health Education Specialist) Exam

in     Health Science

#### Praxis II Exam: Content Knowledge

in     Art (including Art History)  
       French  
       German  
       Spanish

CLA (Collegiate Learning Assessment)

in Classics  
Communication  
Communication Disorders  
English  
Exercise Science  
Interdisciplinary Studies  
Linguistics  
Philosophy and Religion  
Russian  
Theatre

ACAT (The Area Concentration Achievement Tests)

in Agricultural Science  
Justice Systems

*When are the results typically available?*

Availability of individual results varies by exam from 2 weeks to 2 months after the exam administration. University averages are typically available in the fall for the previous fiscal year.

*What type of information is sought?*

Information relating to general knowledge in the major. In some cases, the tests provide subscores for particular areas of the major. The CLA Exam provides information on analytical writing and critical thinking skills.

*From whom are the results available?*

Assessment and Testing Office and Department Offices.

*To whom are the results regularly distributed?*

Individual results are communicated to students and their department. University, department, and discipline averages are sent to the President, Provost, Deans, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators. University-wide results are also available through this *Almanac*.

*Are the results available by department or discipline?*

Yes.

*Are the results comparable to data of other universities?*

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

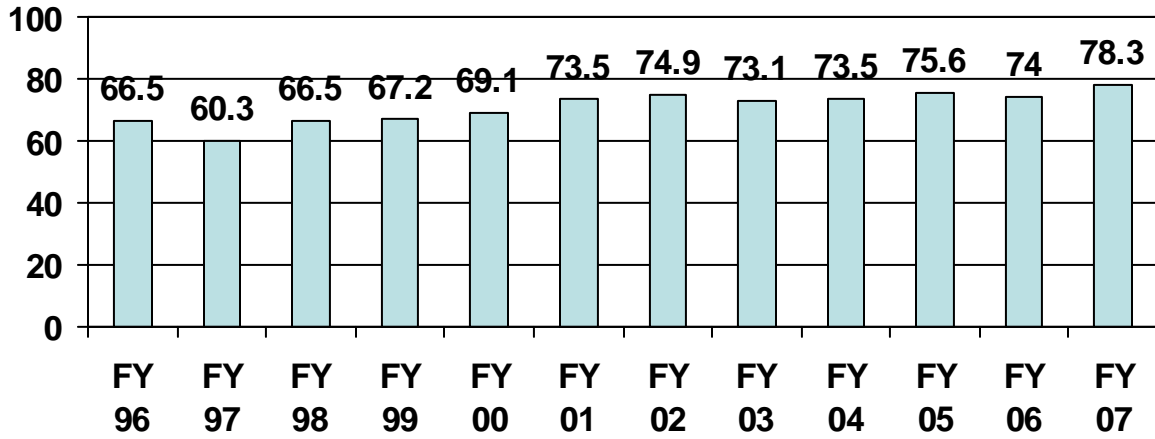
All Truman seniors are required to take exams in their majors. Faculty in the majors select the most appropriate exam for their students. Currently a number of tests are used: Major Field Test, Health Education Systems Inc. Test, Certified Health Education Specialist Exam, Praxis II Exams (Content Knowledge), Collegiate Learning Assessment, and Area Concentration Achievement Test Exam. These tests are coordinated and partially administered by the Assessment and Testing Office, and the method of their administration depends on the test administered.

Results of the senior exam are used by faculty to assess student performance in the major. Additionally, student performance University-wide on the senior tests is used as an indicator that the University is meeting its institutional goal of “recruiting, supporting, and graduating a well-prepared, highly qualified student body” as stated in the Truman State University Master Plan Update (p. 20). Results are also reported to the Coordinating Board for Higher Education (CBHE) as required by the state of Missouri.

Generally, senior test results are reported as percentiles. At the individual student level, percentiles indicate what percent of all students nation-wide taking the test have scores at or below that of the particular student. At the University level, we are typically interested in the percent of students University-wide and by department and major who scored above the 50<sup>th</sup> and the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile on the senior tests.

In fiscal year 2007, 1,116 students took senior tests in the major. Traditionally, results of the senior tests by major and department are not reported University-wide. It can be reported, however, that the percent of students scoring above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the senior tests increased from 2006 to 2007 (74.0% to 78.3%), and the percent of students scoring above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile on the senior test increased from 2006 to 2007 (37.2% to 43.6%). Overall, the percent of Truman students scoring above the 50<sup>th</sup> percentile on the senior tests has been slowly increasing toward the 2007 Master Plan goal of 80% by 2007, while the percent of students scoring above the 80<sup>th</sup> percentile has been slowly increasing toward a desirable goal of 50%. These results are shown in the tables below.

### Percent Scoring Above the 50th Percentile on Senior Tests



### Percent Scoring Above the 80th Percentile on Senior Tests

