

Chapter XIV: SENIOR TEST 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 SPRING 2003

MFT (Major Field Test)

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

Mosby AssessTest

in Nursing

CHES (Certified Health Education Specialist) Exam

in Health Science

MLA Cooperative Foreign Language Proficiency Tests

in Spanish

Praxis II Exam: Content Knowledge

in French
 German

GRE (Graduate Record Examinations) General Test
in Art (except Visual Communications)
Art History
Classics
Communication
Communication Disorders
English
Exercise Science
Linguistics
Philosophy and Religion
Russian
Theatre

LSAT (Law School Admission Test)
in Communication
English

GMAT (Graduate Management Admission Test)
in Communication

ACAT (The Area Concentration Achievement Tests)
in Agricultural Science
Art-Visual Communication
Justice Systems

When are the results typically available?

Availability of individual results vary by exam from 2 weeks to 2 months after the exam administration. University averages are typically available in the summer for the 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 GRE General Test provides information on analytical writing, quantitative, and verbal skills.

From whom are the results available?

Assessment and Testing Office and Division Offices.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

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

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).

Senior Test Executive Summary

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, Mosby AssessTest, Certified Health Education Specialist Exam, MLA Cooperative Foreign Language Proficiency Test, Praxis II Exam (Content Knowledge), Law School Admission Test, Area Concentration Achievement Test, and Graduate Record Examinations General Test. These tests are 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 test percentiles. At the individual student level, percentiles indicate what percent of all students nation-wide taking the test have test scores at or below that of the particular student. Typically, we are interested in the number of students University-wide and by division and major who scored above the 50th and above the 80th percentile.

Between 1998 and 2002, Truman included in its Master Plan yearly projections for University-wide, division-level, and major-level student performance above the 50th percentile on the senior tests. The final version of the Master Plan Update document will include a 2007 projection for University-wide and division-level student performance above the 50th percentile. Additionally, the CBHE requires a report of the average and range of percent of majors scoring above the 50th and 80th percentiles on the senior tests.

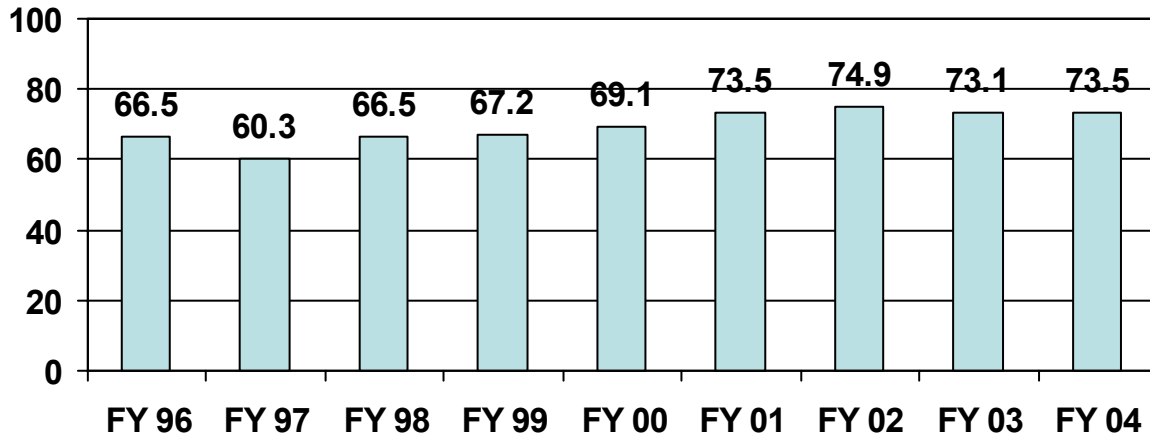
In fiscal year 2004, 1,099 students took senior tests in the major. Traditionally, results of the senior tests by major and division are not reported University-wide. It can be reported, however, that the percent of students scoring above the 50th percentile on the senior tests increased from 2003 to 2004 for three of the divisions.

Results showing the percent of students scoring above the 80th percentile on the senior tests were even more positive. Four of seven divisions reported increases from 2003 to 2004 in the percent of students who scored above the 80th percentile.

University-wide, the percentage of students scoring above the 50th percentile increased from 73.11% in 2003 to 73.52% in 2004. The percent of students University-wide scoring above the 80th percentile is the highest it has ever been.

Overall, the percent of Truman students scoring above the 50th percentile on the senior tests has been slowly increasing toward the 2007 University Master Plan goal of 80%.

Percent Scoring Above the 50th Percentile on Senior Tests



Percent Scoring Above the 80th Percentile on Senior Tests

