

Chapter IX: SENIOR TESTS IN THE MAJOR

Who takes it?

All seniors.

When is it administered?

During the senior year.

How long does it take for the student to complete the instrument?

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 assessment?

The faculty of each major/discipline designate the test that best suits their majors.

SENIOR TESTS AT TRUMAN AS OF FALL 2007

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

BOC (Board of Certification) Exam

in Athletic Training

CHES (Certified Health Education Specialist) Exam

in Health Science

HFI (Health Fitness Instructor)/HFS (Health Fitness Specialist) Exam

in Exercise Science

Praxis II Exam: Content Knowledge
in Art (including Art History)
French
German
Spanish

CLA (Collegiate Learning Assessment)
in Classics
Communication Disorders
English
Interdisciplinary Studies
Linguistics
Philosophy and Religion
Romance Language
Russian
Theatre

ACAT (The Area Concentration Achievement Tests)
in Agricultural Science
Justice Systems

Communication Exam (internal instrument designed by Communication faculty)
in Communication

When are results typically available?

Availability of individual results varies by exam from immediately, weeks, to 6 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 when available. University, School, and discipline averages are sent to the President, Provost, Deans, Assessment Committee, and select 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).

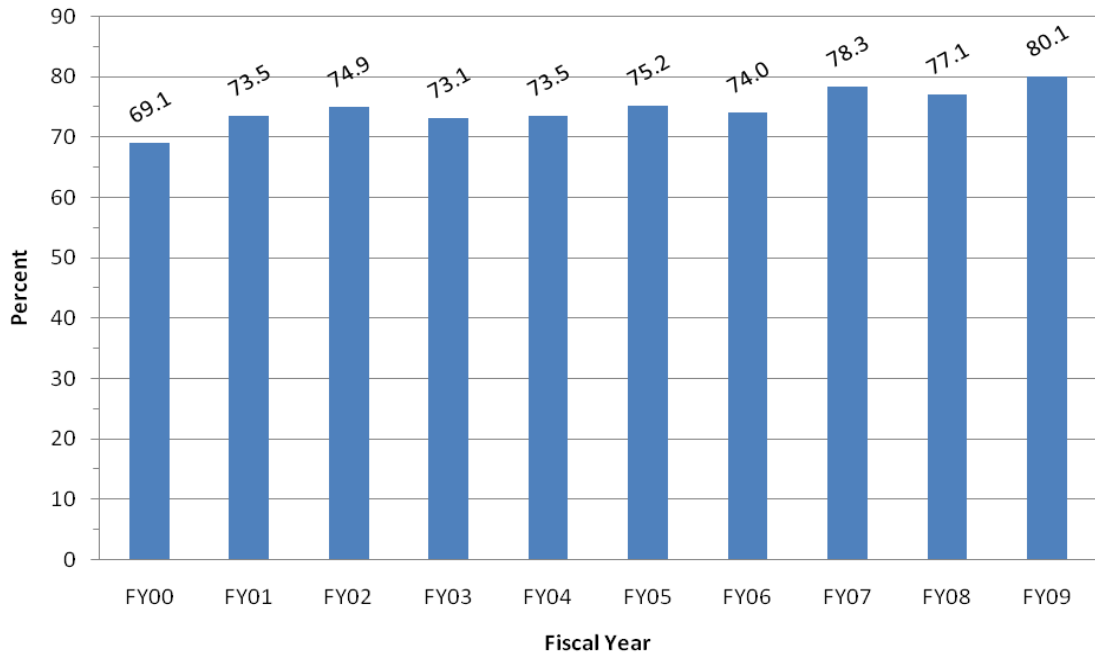
All Truman seniors are required to take exams in their majors. Faculty in the majors select the most appropriate exam for their students with Dean and Provost approval. Currently a number of tests are used: Major Field Test, Board of Certification, Health Education Systems Inc. Test, Certified Health Education Specialist Exam, Health Fitness Specialist Exam, Praxis II Exams (Content Knowledge), Collegiate Learning Assessment, and Area Concentration Achievement Test Exam. These tests are coordinated and mostly 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. 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 50th and the 80th percentile on the senior tests.

In fiscal year 2009, 1,045 students took senior tests in the major which provide percentile scores. 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 50th and 80th percentiles on the senior tests increased from 2008 to 2009 (77.1% and 42.8% to 80.1% and 44.9% respectively). Overall, the percent of Truman students scoring above the 50th percentile on the senior tests has been slowly increasing toward the 2007 Master Plan goal of 80% and in fiscal year 2009, this goal was met. The percent of students scoring above the 80th percentile has been slowly increasing toward a desirable goal of 50%. These results are shown in the tables below.

Percent Scoring at or above the 50th Percentile on Senior Test



Percent Scoring at or above the 80th Percentile on Senior Test

