

Chapter 4: 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 2 hours.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing Office, Violette Hall 1130.

Who originates the test?

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

SENIOR TESTS AT TRUMAN FOR FALL 2014 AND SPRING 2015

MFT (Major Field Test)

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

DUCK (Diagnostic of Undergraduate Chemistry Knowledge)

in Chemistry

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

HFS (Health Fitness Specialist) Exam

in Exercise Science

Praxis II Exam: Content Knowledge

in Art (including Art History)

Praxis II Exam: World Language Exam

in French

 German

 Romance Language (student chooses Spanish or French)

 Spanish

CLA+ (Collegiate Learning Assessment)
in Communication Disorders
 Creative Writing
 English
 Interdisciplinary Studies
 Linguistics
 Russian
 Theatre

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

NLE (The National Latin Exam) and/or NGE (The National Greek Exam)
in Classics

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

Capstone Seminar Experience (PHRE 475)
In Philosophy and Religion (Spring 2014)

When are the 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 late 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 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, College/School, 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 depends on the test involved).

Senior Tests

All Truman seniors are required to take exams or complete performance assessments in their majors. Faculty in each program select the most appropriate exam or assessment for their students with Department Chair, Dean and Provost approval. Currently a number of tests are used: Major Field Tests, Diagnostic of Undergraduate Chemistry Knowledge, Board of Certification, Health Education Systems Inc. exam, Certified Health Education Specialist Exam, Health Fitness Specialist Exam, Praxis II Exams (Content Knowledge and World Language Exams), Collegiate Learning Assessment, National Latin and/or Greek Exams, and Area Concentration Achievement Tests. These tests are coordinated and mostly administered by the Assessment and Testing Office. The method of administration depends on the test administered, but most exams are computer-based.

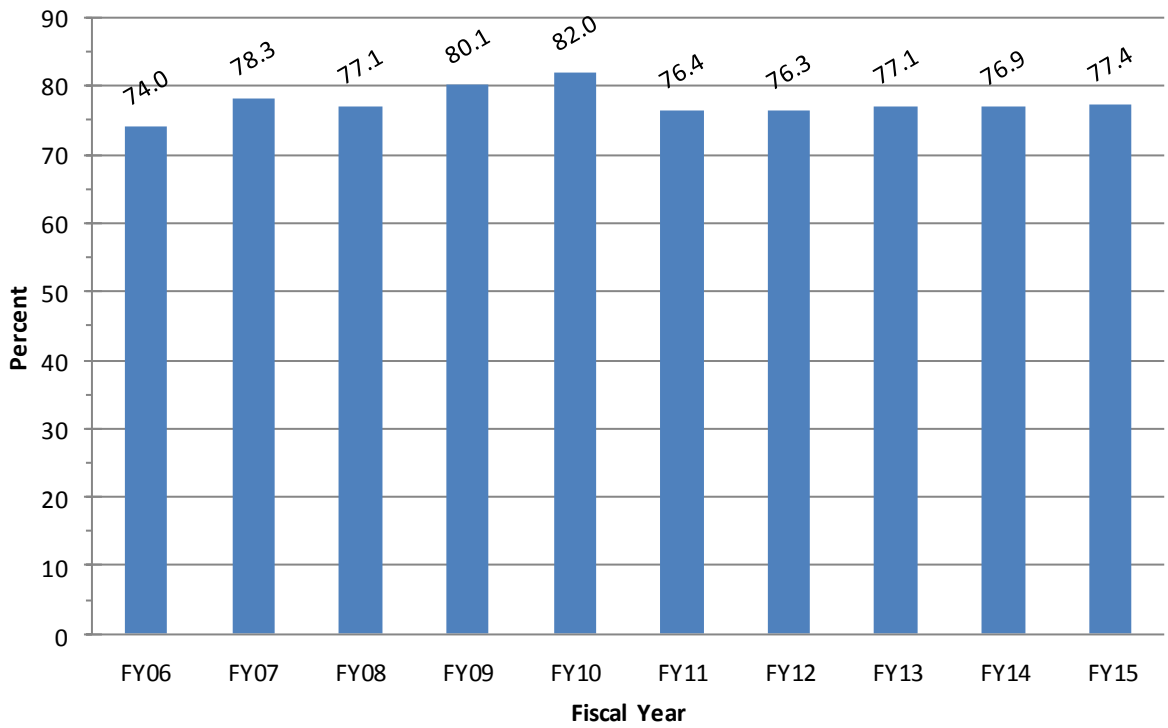
Results of the senior exam are used by faculty to assess student performance in the major. Additionally, student performance University-wide on the senior tests is used as an indicator that the University is meeting its institutional goal of “recruiting, supporting, and graduating a well-prepared, highly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

In order to be most useful as a measure of student achievement, students must give the tests their full attention and exert significant effort. Except for the exams tied to licensure or certification, courses, or departmental honors, the results matter more to the university than to individual students. This causes some concern that current scores may underestimate student ability. Several techniques for encouraging students to take the exams seriously are used by some departments. Departments such as Chemistry, Justice Systems, and Art include exam review in the curriculum. Several programs, like the sciences, require students who do not meet a minimum score to retake the test or an alternative assessment. Business includes a notation on the transcript for students who perform exceptionally or poorly. Other programs use the results as one consideration for determining departmental honors or as an assignment in the capstone or senior seminar course.

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 at or above the 50th and the 80th percentiles on the senior tests.

In fiscal year 2015, students took 993 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 at or above the 50th percentile on their senior tests increased from 76.9% in FY 2014 to 77.4% in FY 2015. The percent of students scoring at or above the 80th percentile on their senior tests decreased from 43.0% in FY 2014 to 42.5% in FY 2015. The results from the past ten fiscal years are illustrated in the following graphs.

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



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

