

Chapter 5: 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?

Varies depending on the test, but the average is about 2 hours.

What office administers it?

Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the test?

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

SENIOR TESTS AT TRUMAN

ACAT (The Area Concentration Achievement Test)

in Agricultural Science
 Communication
 Justice Systems

American Chemical Society – Biochemistry

Biochemistry and Molecular Biology

Capstone Seminar Experience (PHRE 475)

In Philosophy and Religion

CHES (Certified Health Education Specialist) Exam

in Health Science

CLA+ (Collegiate Learning Assessment plus)

in

Applied Linguistics

Art (including Art History)

Communication Disorders

Creative Writing

English

History

Interdisciplinary Studies

Liberal Studies

Linguistics

Statistics

Theatre

DUCK (Diagnostic of Undergraduate Chemistry Knowledge)

Chemistry

EP-C (Certified Exercise Physiologist) Exam

in Exercise Science

HESI (Health Education Systems Inc) Exam

in Nursing

MFT (Major Field Test)

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

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

in Classics

Praxis II Exam: World Language Exam

in French
 German
 Modern Language
 Romance Language (student chooses Spanish or French)
 Spanish

When are the results typically available?

Availability of individual results varies by exam from immediately 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).

TRUMAN STATE UNIVERSITY

FY24 SENIOR TESTING

**SUMMER 2023, FALL 2023 AND SPRING 2024
GRADUATES**

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: Area Concentration Achievement Test, American Chemical Society, Certified Health Education Specialist, Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus, Diagnostic of Undergraduate Chemistry Knowledge, Certified Exercise Physiologist, Health Education Systems Inc, Major Field Tests, National Latin and/or Greek Exams, Praxis II exams (World Language Exams). 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.

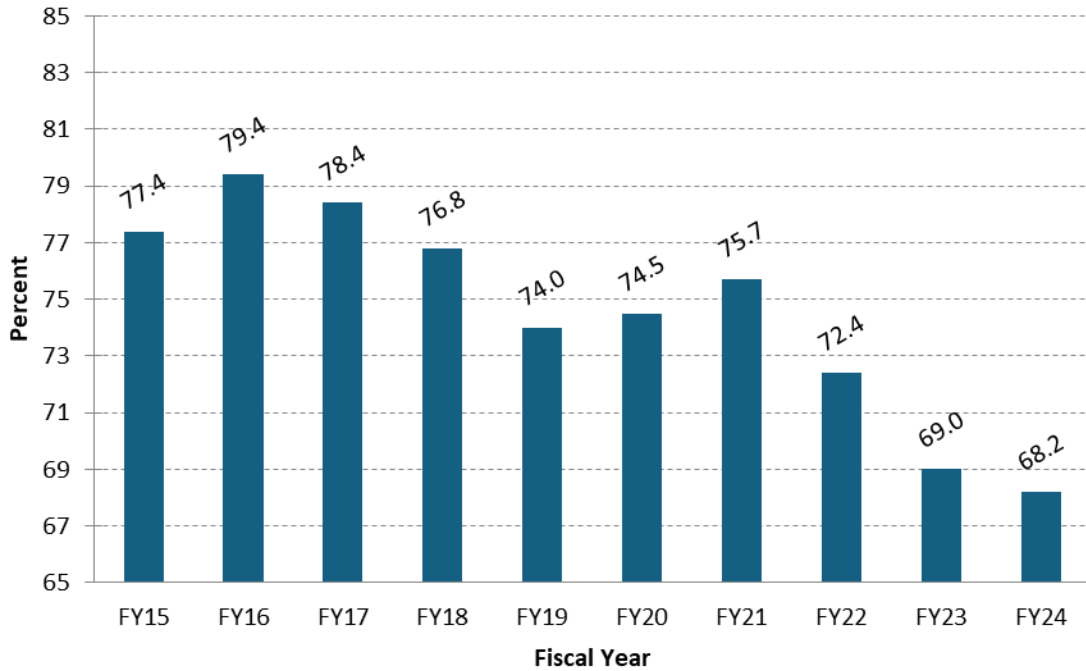
Results of the senior exam are used by faculty to assess student performance in the major. Additionally, University-wide student performance on senior tests is used as an indicator that the University is meeting its institutional goal of “recruiting, supporting, and graduating a well-prepared, highly 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, Communication, Exercise Science and Health Science include exam review in the curriculum. Some programs require students who do not meet a minimum score to retake the test or take an alternative assessment. 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 who scored at or above the 50th and the 80th percentiles on the senior tests, organized by major and across the university.

In fiscal year 2024, students took 600 senior tests in majors 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 percentage of students scoring at or above the 50th percentile on their senior tests university-wide decreased from 69.0% in FY 2023 to 68.2% in FY 2024. The percentage of students scoring at or above the 80th percentile on their senior tests decreased from 35.4% in FY 2023 to 29.0% in FY 2024. 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

