

Major Field Exam

The Major Field exam program is an innovative battery of undergraduate outcomes tests that are used by schools and departments at more than 600 colleges and universities globally to measure student academic achievement and growth. Academic departments benefit from the use of these tests as the scores allow for detailed curriculum review and evaluation. Students benefit from the tests by having an effective metric to determine their own level of achievement, comparing their scores with those of other students in the program and with national comparative data. The Major Field exams provide reliable data for individual and group measurement by assessing student learning in major fields of study.

Key purposes of the Major Field exams are to provide information that colleges and universities can use in curriculum evaluation, departmental self-studies, and end-of-major outcomes assessment. Scores will also be included in tables prepared by ETS of comparative data based on the scores of all senior-level students who have taken the exam. Students will receive their scores from the Assessment Office by mail in the next semester.

The content of the Major Field exams reflects the basic knowledge and understanding gained in the core undergraduate curriculum. The tests are two-hour, multiple-choice examinations designed to assess mastery of concepts and principles as well as knowledge expected of students at the conclusion of a major in specific subject areas. They go beyond measurement of factual knowledge, however, because they also evaluate students' ability to analyze and solve problems, understand relationships, and interpret material. The content specifications for the Major Field exam reflect basic knowledge and skills gained from a program curriculum. The tests have been designed to assess the mastery of concepts, principles, and knowledge expected of students at the conclusion of a program of specific subject areas. Detailed content descriptions and sample questions for each test can be viewed on the Higher Education Assessment website at <http://www.ets.org/hea>, and can be used in preparation for the exams.

All students seeking a degree in the following programs are required to take the Major Field exam prior to graduation: Biology, Physics, and Psychology.

The Major Field exam is given in two-hour testing sessions. The exam is divided into two sections of one hour each. During the time allowed for each section, only that section should be worked. A pencil must be used to fill in the ovals on the answer sheets. Students should plan to arrive at the testing site about 15 minutes early to check in, and a photo ID is required.

Students who have earned 105 credit hours are eligible to take the Major Field exam, and those that have applied to graduate in the current semester are required to take the exam prior to graduation. Email notifications are sent several times each semester to students who are required to take this exam. Registration is online at the website <http://www.umkc.edu/irap/assessment/exitexams>. Students will need their UMKC Email account ID and password to access the site. If a session is missed, students may reschedule online. There are numerous testing sessions scheduled in each semester, which are listed online at the assessment website referenced above.

For more information or assistance, visit the website or call the Testing Services at (816) 235- 5820.