Measure more than knowledge with
MAJOR FIELD TESTS
NOW ONLINE!

Learn what they know.
Know what they learn.
Major Field Tests from ETS

Test overview
Major Field Tests are an innovative battery of undergraduate outcomes assessments designed to measure the basic knowledge and understanding achieved by students in a major field of study. But Major Field Tests go beyond the measurement of factual knowledge; they help you evaluate students’ ability to

- analyze and solve problems
- understand relationships
- interpret material

Major Field Test subjects
Undergraduate level
The tests are designed to assess the knowledge expected of undergraduate students at the conclusion of a major in these specific subject areas:

- Biology
- Business
- Chemistry
- Computer Science
- Criminal Justice
- Economics
- Education
- History
- Literature in English
- Mathematics
- Music
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Graduate level
Major Field Test for MBA— the only comprehensive national assessment for program evaluation of its kind.

Key test objectives
Colleges and universities use the Major Field Tests to measure student academic growth and to assess the educational outcomes of their major programs. Academic departments benefit greatly from using these tests to measure the progress of their students and evaluate program curricula.

The tests also provide students with an assessment of their own level of achievement within a field of study compared to that of other students in their program, and to national comparative data.
Reliable and valid test construction

ETS Major Field Tests are constructed according to specifications developed and reviewed by committees of experts in each subject area. The test development process includes an extensive review of each test question to eliminate language, symbols, or content considered to be potentially offensive, inappropriate for any subgroups of the test-taking population, or serving to perpetuate any negative attitudes that may be conveyed to these subgroups.

After a new form of a test is introduced, and before score reports are released, each test undergoes a rigorous statistical analysis to verify that each question yields the expected result. A question that proves to be ambiguous or otherwise unsuitable is not used in computing scores. For each test, the aim is to provide an instrument that measures the subject matter and skills a student should master from his or her major area of study.

Suggested uses for Major Field Tests

Integrating the exam into the capstone course
Students have the opportunity to demonstrate that they have achieved the goals for learning established by their educational institution and major department.

Making the exam a graduation requirement
Students must take the exam during their last semester of study to document proficiency.

As a method of developing and improving curricula
The variety of score reports allow for detailed curriculum review and evaluation.

Supporting institutional excellence
Obtain reliable data that can be used for annual strategic planning and to meet, or exceed accreditation standards.
Major Field Tests

Test description
All Major Field Tests are proctored, multiple-choice exams lasting two hours and used to make medium to high-stakes decisions. However, the addition of optional, locally developed questions may result in a longer testing period. The tests are 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. Many of the tests contain questions requiring interpretation of graphs, diagrams and charts based on material related to the field of study.

Flexible administration
There are no preset test administration dates. Institutions and departments may schedule testing at their convenience. They are typically given during the senior year, after a student has successfully completed the majority of courses required for a given major. Colleges and academic departments are able to choose where to administer the exams, as long as it is in a proctored environment with Internet connections.

Customize with local questions
Up to 50 locally written questions can be added to any test; a score report that includes a summary of student responses to each question is provided at no extra cost. The 50 additional questions are reported as frequencies of students answering each of the options for each question. ETS doesn’t need to know what the intended key is but rather the institution can calculate its own assessment indicators from the information they receive from the standard report.

Score reports
Major Field Test scores are reported on a scale of 120-200, with subscores (which many of the tests include) reported on a scale of 20-100. Many of the tests also report scores based on group-level achievement in subfields of the discipline. These “assessment indicators” report the average percent of test questions answered correctly, in a particular subject area, by all students tested. Major Field Tests only score correct answers, thereby not penalizing students for any omissions or guesses.
Major Field Test score reports are sent directly to the office within the institution that purchases them, such as a department chairperson, dean, or director of assessment. An advantage of the online administration of Major Field Tests is that reporting will be accessible via the Internet immediately after test administration.

Also available online are a number of Major Field Test Report Summaries compiled by ETS and made available to all involved institutions:

**Departmental Roster** – consists of the total scores and subscores of all students tested, listed alphabetically by last name.

**Departmental Summary: Total Test and Subscores** – includes the frequency distributions of total scores and subscores, showing the percent of examinees scoring below each decile. The departmental mean scale score and standard deviation are also shown. A Departmental Summary does not, however, include the scores of students who answered less than 50 percent of the test questions in one or both sections of a test.

**Departmental Summary: Assessment Indicators** – provides the mean (average) percent correct for clusters of questions that pertain to a subfield within a major field of study.

**Departmental Demographic Summary** – student demographic information is provided, taken directly from the answer sheets and summarized for the group as a whole.

**Additional Questions (Locally Written) Summary** – If any locally written questions were administered in a given test, an additional summary for the group as a whole is provided showing the number and percent responding to each option choice for each question. Responses are not reported for individual students.

**Individual Student Reports** – total score and subscores for each student tested, together with interpretive information.

**Subgroup Reports** – roster and summary reports listed above for each subgroup can be provided if requested.

* Extremely small groups cannot yield meaningful data; therefore, this report requires a minimum of five students.
Major Field Tests

Major Field Tests – measure data in context

Comparative Data

National

ETS publishes a Comparative Data Guide that contains tables of scale scores and percentiles for individual student scores drawn directly from senior test takers nationwide. The Guide also provides departmental mean scores, as well as any subscores or group assessment indicators that the test may support.

Local

Departmental data can be extremely valuable for planning courses. For institutional purposes, such as studying student performance, planning courses, and gauging the progress of individual students, developing local comparative data are often more useful than the national data presented in the Comparative Data Guide.

Custom

A carefully planned combination of cohorts (groups) and subgroups can result in very robust reporting. Customers can create reports including custom comparative data at any point after they have closed their cohort.

Advantages of online test delivery

Online testing provides more flexibility than has ever been possible with paper-based tests, allowing institutions of higher education access to real-time score reporting. Other advantages of the Web-based tests are:

- Downloadable score report format
- Immediate availability of score reports online
- Eliminate use of class time to test
- Expanded organization capability
- Toll-free technical support
- Purchase using purchase order number or credit card
- Pre-purchased, paper-based exams can be exchanged for online tests
Technical requirements for online administration

The requirements for student and administrator machines appear in the table below.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Requirement</th>
<th>Student</th>
<th>Administrator/Proctor</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Operating System</td>
<td>Windows 98, XP, NT and 2000</td>
<td>Windows 98, XP, NT and 2000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Browser</td>
<td>Internet Explorer 5.5 or greater</td>
<td>Internet Explorer 5.5 or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Internet Connection</td>
<td>High Speed</td>
<td>128 KB or greater</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Screen Resolution</td>
<td>1024 x 768 pixels</td>
<td>1024 x 768 pixels</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

To learn more about online Major Field Tests and see a demo visit www.ets.org/hea/mft.

Paper-and-pencil administration

There is more flexibility and convenience offered in the online version of Major Field Tests, but paper-based versions are available and are comparable in features, benefits and costs. Pre-purchased, paper-based exams may be exchanged for online tests.
Features and Benefits

Currently more than 700 colleges and universities successfully employ one or more of the Major Field Tests as part of their student achievement assessment and curriculum evaluation each year:

- Objective, end-of-program multiple-choice exam
- Valid, reliable measures of student outcomes
- Excellent for curriculum development and assessment
- Used to make medium to high-stakes decisions
- Administered in a proctored setting at the department’s convenience
- Undergraduate tests require only two hours of testing time; MBA requires three
- Available in a completely secure online or paper-and-pencil environment
- Includes option for locally written questions
- Variety of downloadable score reports available immediately for online testing
- National comparative data on each test
- Custom comparative data available

For more information about Major Field Tests, visit our Web site at www.ets.org/hea/mft.