General Education Assessment Policy

Testing Services administers ETS’ Proficiency Profile exam as the University of Central Missouri’s general education assessment (GEA). The GEA is a computer-based, multiple-choice exam that measures four core intellectual skill areas – reading, writing, mathematics and critical thinking. All undergraduate students must take and pass the GEA as a requirement for graduation from UCM, with the exception of Education majors.

Education majors must instead take and pass the Missouri General Education Assessment (MoGEA), as one criterion for admission to the Teacher Education Program. Students who withdraw from the Teacher Education program to major in another field and who have successfully passed the MoGEA, will have fulfilled the General Education Assessment Policy and do not need to take the GEA. Post-baccalaureate and graduate students are NOT required to take the GEA. For more information on the MoGEA, please visit the Testing Services website.

What score is required on the General Education Assessment (GEA) to fulfill the Policy?

To fulfill the General Education Assessment Policy as a condition for graduation, students must earn a minimum total score of 425. This score is based on a scaled score range of 400-500. Score reports are available immediately after testing. Students who do not achieve a score of 425 must wait a minimum of 30 days and visit with Testing Services staff for instructions prior to retesting.

When should the GEA be taken?

To avoid delays in progression towards a degree, students should take the GEA as soon as they have earned a total of 60 or more credit hours. Transfer students with at least 60 credit hours should test during their first semester at UCM.

Where should the GEA be taken?

The exam may be taken at UCM Testing Services, Humphreys 216, or Missouri Innovation Campus – Lees Summit. Remote testing is available at UCM-approved test centers conveniently located to students, such as those in online programs.

How do students register for the GEA?

Students should register for the GEA through RegisterBlast at http://www.registerblast.com/ucmo. Online students seeking remote testing options should email Testing Services: testingservices@ucmo.edu

Is there a consequence for not testing?

Yes! Taking and passing the GEA is a graduation requirement. Students who have earned a total of 60 or more credit hours and who fail to test will have a TC HOLD placed on their academic account. The TC HOLD will prevent students from enrolling in future semester courses.

When will the TC HOLD be removed?

The TC HOLD will be removed AFTER the GEA exam has been taken (not after registration).
How should students prepare for the exam?

No specific general education courses need to be taken prior to testing. However, students are advised to take general education courses during their first 60 semester hours. Test Content is available at https://www.ets.org/proficiencyprofile/about/content/, as well as Sample Questions at https://www.ets.org/s/proficiencyprofile/pdf/sampleques.pdf. A link to online practice materials through the UCM library website is available via MyCentral Student Services tab.

Is there a fee for taking the GEA?

University assessment funding pays for the first general education exam. Thereafter, students pay a $20 retest fee. Testing Services bills the retest fee to the students’ financial account following testing. Cancelling or rescheduling requires 24 hours’ notice. A $15 no-show fee will be charged to students’ accounts if documentation of a UCM approved absence is not provided to Testing Services.

Is accommodated testing available for the GEA?

Yes! Accommodated testing is available for the GEA testers, but students must request the Office of Accessibility send official, approved accommodations to Testing Services two weeks prior to the desired test date.

Students whose primary language is not English are provided additional test time, but must select this option this when registering.

Why is General Education so important?

“General Education” refers to the skills and knowledge that students from all majors will need to succeed in upper-level courses and in a career. One way UCM assesses these skills is by requiring students to pass the ETS Proficiency Profile, a test of reading, critical thinking, writing, and mathematics. The State of Missouri also wants to ensure that graduates have these skills, and a portion of UCM’s state funding depends on how well UCM students perform on the GEA.

For additional information, please contact Testing Services, 660-543-4919, testingservices@ucmo.edu, Humphreys 216. When communicating with Testing Services, students should provide their UCM ID (700#), full name, and UCM email address. Providing this information will assist Testing Services in responding promptly and effectively.

July 2017