ALCORN STATE UNIVERSITY

REQUIRED EXAMINATIONS

Authority: Issued by the Dean of Graduate Studies. Changes or exceptions to administrative policies issued by the Dean may only be made by the President.

Category: Graduate Studies

Applies to: Students

History: Approved – May 12, 1991
Last Revised – September 11, 2009
First Issued – October 18, 2009

Related Policies: N/A

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Policy on Required Examinations

The School of Graduate Studies policy on required examinations contains the policies and regulations of the Alcorn State University School of Graduate Studies. This policy has been established by the School of Graduate Studies Graduate Council to ensure consistent standards across Graduate programs.

REQUIRED GRADUATE EXAMINATIONS

Entrance examinations are required of all prospective graduate students and Exit exams are required of all graduate students on track for graduation. Students can take these exams more than once, should they choose to do so. However, results of all attempts are reported to the School of Graduate Studies and become a part of the students' permanent record.

I. ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

A. The Graduate Record Examination

The Graduate Record Examination (GRE) General is required of applicants for most of the degree programs at Alcorn State University. Students must take the test on verbal, quantitative and analytical skills to be considered for admission. Students are required to make a passing score of 3.0 on the Analytical Writing. Scores from this examination must be “released” to Alcorn State University School of Graduate Studies.

B. The Graduate English Proficiency Examination

All prospective graduate students must demonstrate English writing proficiency. If the student fails to make the required cut-off score of 3.0 on the Analytical Writing section of the GRE, he/she may be admitted in the special admissions category. During the first twelve hours of enrollment in the special admission status the student must enroll as a full time student, maintain a 3.0/4.0 GPA and take the Graduate English Proficiency Examination during the first semester/session of enrollment. The student must pass this examination to satisfy the standardized test requirement. If the student does not pass this examination, he/she must enroll in English 504 writing course. Students must pass this course to continue their graduate status.

C. The General Management Admission Test

GMAT is required for admission into the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program. Students must take the GMAT in the general verbal, mathematical and analytical writing skills areas. Students must score at least a 3.5 on the GMAT Analytical Writing Component as criteria for admission.

A. Major Field Examination

The Major Field Exam is a degree requirement for all business students at the undergraduate level 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 in business. Students must score 136 on this exam to be considered exempt from taking the GMAT for admission into the master level program.

B. PRAXIS TESTS. *The Praxis Series* must be taken by **t**eacher candidates or those wishing to become certified. Teacher education program graduates for all content areas must pass the Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test that most closely matches the grade levels of the license sought. The PLT test is not required for alternate route candidates.

1. **Praxis I** Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST) measures basic academic skills. In Mississippi, Alternate route teacher candidates are required to take the *Praxis I* tests for teacher licensure. Students must score 172 on the Praxis I Writing Component.

Alternate route teacher candidates are required to pass the Praxis I tests in order to obtain licensure.

	Name of Test	Test #	Required Score
All Areas (Program Entry for Traditional Route; Licensure for Alternative route)	*Praxis I* Reading (computer-based test)	5710	170
	or *Praxis I* Reading *(paper-based test)*	0710	170
	Praxis I Writing (computer)	5720	172
	or *Praxis I* Writing (paper)	0720	172
	Praxis I Mathematics (computer)	5730	169
	or *Praxis I* Mathematics (paper) (Calculators prohibited.)	0730	169

Teacher education program graduates for all content areas must pass the Principles of Learning and teaching (PLT) test that most closely matches the grade levels of the license sought. The PLT test is not required for **alternate route** candidates.

	Name of Test	Test #	Required Score
All K–3, K–6 Areas	Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K–6	0522	152
All 4–8 Areas	Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades 5–9 (PDF)	0523	152
All 7–12 Areas	Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades 7–12	0524	152
All K–12 Areas	Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K–6 **or** Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades 5–9 **or** Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades 7–12	0522 0523 0524	152 152 152

2. **Praxis II** measures general and subject-specific knowledge and teaching skills. In Mississippi, both traditional and alternate route candidates must take the appropriate *Praxis II* tests for each area of certification sought.

	Name of Test	Test #	Required Score
Child Development PreK–K	Education of Young Children	0021	165
Elementary (K–3, K–6)	Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	0011	158
Biology 7–12*	Biology: Content Knowledge	0235	150
Chemistry 7–12*	Chemistry: Content Knowledge	0245	151
Economics 7–12	Economics	0910	490
English 7–12*	English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge	0041	157
Mathematics 7–12*	Mathematics: Content Knowledge	0061	123
Physical Science 7–12	Physical Science: Content Knowledge	0481	147

Physics 7–12*	Physics: Content Knowledge	0265	139
	Name of Test	Test #	Required Score
Social Studies 7–12*	Social Studies: Content Knowledge	0081	143
Physical Education K–12*	Physical Education: Content Knowledge	0091	138
Emotional Disability K–12	Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavioral Disorders/Emotional Disturbances	0371	150
Mild/Moderate Disability K–12*	Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge	0353	136
Special Education Supplemental Endorsement	Education of Exceptional Students: Core Content Knowledge	0353	136
Guidance Counselor K–12	School Guidance and Counseling (PDF) (Contains listening section.)	0420	580

F. The Test of English as a Foreign Language

The TOEFL test is designed to test the English language proficiency of prospective international students. The test is required of all applicants whose native language is not English. This requirement by the School of Graduate Studies is waived only for applicants who will have received a baccalaureate degree, or its foreign equivalent, prior to matriculation at Alcorn State University, from a university or college where English is the primary language of instruction (i.e. Ghana, India, etc). Scores from this examination must be "released" to Alcorn State University School of Graduate Studies.

II. EXIT EXAMINATIONS

A. Core Comprehensive Examination

The student will take a written examination on the core courses in the program of study. The student must successfully complete these courses or their equivalent before taking the examinations. In the case of a failure in any part of the core examinations, only one reexamination is normally allowed. Should a student fail only one part of the three parts of the core examinations, then the reexamination would be on that part only and given at a time convenient to the student and the committees involved. Should a student fail two or three parts of the core examinations, then the reexamination would be on all three parts and will be given only at a regularly scheduled time for the core examinations. Failure on any part of the reexamination constitutes failure on the core examinations.

The Graduate Coordinating Unit Committee will give the core examinations. Regularly scheduled times for the core examinations are posted each semester, and a second term administration only in the case if they are needed for graduation. Pass or fail will be determined

by the criteria set forth by the academic unit and the result of the final score based on this criteria.

The core examinations are as follows:

1. School of Education and Psychology: All students enrolled in the School of Education graduate programs must pass the Core Examination as a requirement for graduation. All students who have successfully completed at least two of the Core courses and who are officially enrolled in the third are eligible to take the Core Examination. An application to take the Comprehensive Examinations must be filed in the School of Graduate Studies office and approved by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies before the examination date.

a. CORE courses:
   1. **Foundations of American Education** (ED 512)
   2. **Methods of Educational Research** (ED 514)
   3. **Advanced Educational Psychology** (PH 513)
   4. **Curriculum (Methods) Development** (ED 533)

B. Area Examination

All Master of Science/Specialist degree students are required to pass the Area Examination. The time of the Area Examination is determined by the student's advisory committee or the department chairperson. Students eligible to take the Area Examination should contact their advisor or department chairperson.

This does not apply to the Master of Science in Nursing or to the Master of Business Administration.

C. Thesis Defense

1. Plan A - Thesis Plan

a. This plan requires the completion of a minimum of 27 hours of Graduate course work plus a thesis research project which yields six semester hours of credit, and the passing of a comprehensive examination (this does not apply to Graduate Nursing) in the professional education area and the field of endorsement. The student will be advised by an advisory committee, composed of one member from the professional education staff, one member from the field of endorsement, and a third member designated by the Dean of Graduate Studies.

b. The option of a project in the research process is also available to graduate nursing students. The student is required to complete at least three components of the research process under the guidance of a research mentor.

c. The student is responsible for delivering the original and two copies of the complete thesis/project to the office of the School of Graduate Studies on or before the second Friday of April for May graduation and on or before the second Friday in November for

December graduation. Students will follow the guidelines in the Handbook for Thesis, published by the School of Graduate Studies.

2. **Plan B - Non-Thesis Plan**
   a. This plan requires the completion of a minimum of 33 hours of course work which must be at the graduate level, and the passing of a final comprehensive examination in the professional education field and the field of endorsement. The student will be advised by an advisory committee, composed of one member from the departmental faculty, one member from the specific degree discipline, and a third member designated by the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies or the Department Chairperson. The final examination will be administered by the advisory committee. A candidate may be reexamined a second time after a minimum period of two months delay if his/her performance on the first examination is unsatisfactory.
   b. Programs will be individually prescribed by the student=s advisory committee involved in each area of concentration. The non-Thesis Plan does not apply to graduate programs in the School of Agriculture.

The Oral presentation of a thesis proposal and the final thesis work are considered as Thesis Comprehensive Exam. The advisory committee examines the student and completes a signature page to verify student's approved defense. The approved thesis is submitted to the Dean of the School of Graduate Studies for final approval.