



Policy Directory

Responsible Division: Academic Affairs

Responsible Office: Graduate Studies

Issue/Revision Date: 6/2005, 2/2009

Policy Title: Graduate Examinations

Policy: *The Graduate Studies policy on Required Graduate Examinations* contains the policies and regulations of the Alcorn State University Office of Graduate Studies. This policy has been established by the Graduate School and Graduate Council to ensure consistent standards across graduate academic units.

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 Office of Graduate Studies and become a part of the students' permanent record.

ENTRANCE EXAMINATIONS

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 Office of Graduate Studies. GRE scores may also be used for admission into the Master of Business Administration (MBA) Program. Scores must not be older than five (5) years.

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. The GRE is an option to the GMAT for MBA applicants.

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. Writing proficiency, which is a requirement for admission but is not assessed on the Major Field Test, will have to be satisfied by meeting writing proficiency guidelines set forth by the School of Business within the first or second semester of attendance.

C.A.S.E. and PRAXIS TESTS

Master of Arts in Teaching applicants must meet the Mississippi teacher licensure requirements for admission. Alternate route teacher candidates are required to take the Core Academic Skills for Educators test. This test replaces the Praxis I test. It measures teacher candidates' skills in reading, mathematics, and writing.

CASE (Core Academic Skills for Educators) . The following Passing Scores are required.

Reading (test 5712) 156

Writing (test 5722) 162

Mathematics (test 5732) 150

The Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)

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 Office 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 Office of Graduate Studies.

International English Language Testing System (IELTS)

This test is an option for international students to assess their ability to communicate in English across all four language skills: listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The university level cut-score is generally 6 or 7.

International students can take either the TOEFL or the IELTS exam to meet university requirements for assessment of language ability.

EXIT EXAMINATIONS

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. Passed sections on the Core are banked. 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 these criteria.

The core examinations are as follows:

School of Education and Psychology

All students enrolled in the Office 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 Education and Psychology office and approved by the Chair of the School of Education and Psychology 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)

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.

Writing Proficiency

All candidates for graduate degrees must demonstrate English writing proficiency. If the student fails to make the required cut-score on the designated standardized examination, he/she may be admitted in the Conditional Admissions category. The student must enroll, maintain a 3.0/4.0 GPA and satisfy analytical writing requirements established by his or her academic unit during the first year of enrollment. The student must pass these departmental requirements to continue graduate enrollment.

Students are required to score the following on standardized tests for admission: Test	Satisfactory Score
Analytical Writing Portion of the GRE General Test	3.0
GMAT Analytical Writing Component	3.5
Core Academic Skills for Educators Writing Component	162