UMKC Standardized Tests Report
Executive Summary 2012-2013

During the 2012-2013 academic year, undergraduate students at UMKC participated in standardized tests measuring their learning outcomes for General Education (through the ETS-Proficiency Profile test), as well as learning outcomes for students’ majors (in the Major Field Tests). Detailed reports have been written for each of these tests. In the bullet points below, we have summarized the findings:

ETS—Proficiency Profile (256*)

- For the second consecutive year, scores were above our benchmark peers for all four areas: Reading, Critical Thinking, Writing, and Mathematics
- On individual items, our scores were better than the national average on 50 out of 53 items
- Our higher scores may be due to the fact that most UMKC students take the ETS-PP before they graduate, whereas students at other schools may take the test at various times in their undergraduate experience. This is evident in the fact that many two-year institutions take the Proficiency Profile as part of their assessment as well.
- Although national scores seemed to take a significant dip, the majority of the university’s numbers held true or improved from last year.
  * A new examination was administered during this year; thus, comparative data are limited to a much smaller sample.

Major Field Tests (MFTs)

Biology (115 Students) – UMKC scored above average on 8 of 9 Assessment Indicators

Political Science (20 Students) – UMKC scored above average on 3 of 3 Assessment Indicators

Computer Science (25 Students) – UMKC scored above average on 3 of 3 Assessment Indicators

Business (241 Students) – UMKC scored above average on 1 of 9 Assessment Indicators

Psychology (133 Students) – UMKC scored above average on 0 of 6 Assessment Indicators

Chemistry (99 Students) – UMKC scored above average on 0 of 2 Assessment Indicators

UMKC students also take MFTs in Mathematics and Physics, but for the second consecutive year there were insufficient numbers of students to allow for comparable samples.

In summary, UMKC continues to excel in the ETS-PP and Biology MFTs. Political Science and Computer Science have made great strides, as both outperformed their peers on each assessment indicator. The findings for Business, Psychology, and Chemistry MFTs were relatively lower. The full findings for each of these areas are outlined in their individual reports.
These reports have been sent to all relevant departments, and the General Education scores have been reviewed by the General Education Committee and the University Assessment Committee. Departments have been encouraged to discuss how they can enhance their curriculum to address the areas of weakness within each test. We will collect data during the 2013-2014 academic year and continue to determine any changes and trends that become clearer over time.