REQUIRED ASSESSMENT TESTING

Missouri S&T Assessment Policy
All students at Missouri S&T are required to participate in assessment of learning outcomes before graduation. The requirement for assessment originated from directives of the governor and Missouri General Assembly for institutions to show direct evidence of student learning. The coordination of assessment processes is housed within the provost’s office.

General Education Assessment
All students who have attained the junior class level, in each semester, are automatically scheduled to take the ETS’ proficiency profile test, which measures general education skills in reading, writing, mathematics, and critical thinking. Students will be notified the semester they qualify to take the test. Students who have earned 61 or more credit hours and who did not test will have a HOLD placed on their academic account. This HOLD will prevent the students from future registration of courses.

General Education Program Learning Goals
The seven general education learning goals below are designed to help students acquire sufficient general knowledge and intellectual versatility. Students are expected to obtain the following competencies:

1. an ability to communicate effectively both orally and in writing
2. an ability to think critically and analyze effectively
3. an ability to apply disciplinary knowledge and skills in solving critical problems
4. an ability to function in diverse learning and working environments
5. an understanding of professional and ethical responsibilities
6. an awareness of national and global contemporary issues
7. a recognition of the need for, and an ability to engage in life long learning

General Education Course Distribution
The general education learning goals can be achieved by taking up to 60 credits in the following six content areas:

- English/Composition, 6 credits
- Western Civilization, 6 credits
- Foreign Languages, 12-16 credits
- Sciences, 12 credits
- Humanities, 12 credits
- Social Sciences, 12 credits

The degree program shall include a minimum of 21 credit hours as follows:

- ENGLISH 1120
- HISTORY 1200 or HISTORY 1300 or HISTORY 1310 or POL SCI 1200
- ECON 1100 or ECON 1200
- Communication elective: ENGLISH 1160 or ENGLISH 1600/TCH COM 1600 or ENGLISH 3560 or SP&M S 1185
- The remaining minimum of 9 additional credit hours must be chosen from disciplines in the humanities and social sciences.

*Humanities courses are defined as those in: art, English and technical communication, etymology, foreign languages, music, philosophy, speech and media studies, and theatre. Social sciences courses are defined as those in: economics, history, political science, and psychology. Some curricula may require the completion of a specified number of upper-level humanities/social sciences (H/SS) courses. Upper-level H/SS courses are defined as those at the 2000-level or above, and that require as a prerequisite the successful completion of a lower-level H/SS course. Study abroad courses may count as upper-level H/SS courses, even if they do not have a prerequisite. H/SS courses numbered 2001, 3001, and 4001 (experimental courses) may also be used to complete these elective requirements.

Courses in business, education, information science and technology, or any other discipline not listed above will not satisfy the humanities/social sciences elective requirement, although such courses may count toward general education requirements. Transfer credits from other universities in sociology and general humanities may count as humanities or social science electives.

*ENGLISH 1160, ENGLISH 1600/TCH COM 1600, ENGLISH 3560, and SP&M S 1185 do not count toward the remaining minimum of 9 additional credit hours in humanities/social sciences electives

Assessment in Student Majors
Seniors are scheduled to take the major field test before clearance for graduation. Engineering student majors are required to take the Fundamentals of Engineering (FE) test, and non-engineering student majors are required to take the ETS’ major field test (MFT) in their respective field of study. Note that some departments administer in-house tests in lieu of the FE or MFT.

Information about the FE test and requirements are available in each Engineering department. Students receive the MFT notification from their department.

Student Engagement
In addition to the direct measures of assessment outlined above, student learning outcomes are also assessed indirectly through various institutional effectiveness surveys. For example, freshmen and seniors are scheduled every three years to complete the National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE), which obtains information about student engagement and participation in degree programs and activities that institutions provide for their learning and personal development.

Use of Assessment Results
In these integrated assessment processes, the evidence gathered through assessment activities are used in several ways:

- Students use evidence to improve their own learning processes and outcomes.
- Faculty use evidence to update and improve curricula, either in content or methodology.
- Degree programs use evidence in periodic program reviews and ongoing curriculum development to ensure that the program outcomes for student learning are being met.
• Colleges use evidence to set priorities for resource allocations and to monitor the contribution of degree programs to the college mission and goals.
• Professional staff members use evidence to modify existing services and to create new approaches for delivering services to students.
• University administrators use evidence to assess the quality of the degree programs and support services provided to students and the effectiveness of the university in carrying out its mission.