



***GRADUATE ENGLISH COMPETENCY
EXAMINATION RESULTS***

2014-2015

GRADUATE STUDIES

2014-2015 Graduate English Comprehensive Examination Results

The ability to communicate effectively in writing is generally recognized as essential for graduate students. The Graduate Community of Scholars (COS) agree that the ability to articulate complex ideas clearly and effectively, express ideas logically, follow conventions of standard English grammar, and control the basic elements of standard written English are hallmarks of an academic scholar. This COS agreement is undergirded by requiring a bachelor's degree as part of the admission criteria for graduate school. Graduate program directors are also assuming that an undergraduate degree has adequately prepared students who are admitted for graduate study for the rigors of graduate level writing. **Therefore, all master-level students must demonstrate proficiency in writing by earning eighty (80) percent or higher on the Graduate English Competency Examination (GECE).**

The GECE test is taken prior to registration or during the first term when the student begins work beyond the undergraduate level. The test is given three times a year and alternate date testing is twice a year. The test is designed to show strengths and weaknesses in the areas of grammar and usage, logic, organization and content. The examination can be taken only once. Students who are unsuccessful on the GECE are required to enroll in ENG 500 for strengthening writing skills. It is expected that students who are required to complete ENG 500 will do so no later than their second semester of enrollment. A final grade of "B" or higher is considered passing. ENG 500 does not earn credit in graduate degree programs. Information on specific testing dates can be obtained from the website (www.jsums.edu/graduateschool) and academic departments.

Exemptions

1. Students in selected degree programs may meet this requirement by obtaining appropriate scores on the following examinations: GRE, GMAT and PRAXIS.
2. JSU undergraduate students may meet this requirement by entering Graduate School immediately after graduation provided they meet the requirements for the Undergraduate Proficiency Examination (UPE). Official exemption letters are required from Academic Advisors requesting exemptions.

Monitoring Graduate English Competency Examination (GECE) Results

Four hundred and thirty (430) master-level students were declared eligible to take the GECE during the academic year. Seventy five (75) of those students did not sit for the GECE during their period of eligibility and were required to reapply for the next administration of the examination. Administrative holds are placed on student records. Consequently, three hundred and fifty-five (355) sat for the 2014-2015 GECE.

Outcomes:

Two hundred and seventy nine (279) students demonstrated proficiency on the GECE representing a seventy nine (79) percent pass rate.

Table 1. 2014-2015 GECE Results

Test Dates	Eligible	Absent	Subtotal	Passed	Failed
2014 - 2015	430	75	355	279 (79%)	76 (21%)

ENG 500 Advanced Laboratory Writing Course

Seventy six (76) students did not demonstrate satisfactory academic performance on the GECE and were required to enroll in ENG 500, (academic intervention) as a second chance for demonstrating English proficiency.

Sixty-nine (69) students were successful in ENG 500. Therefore, ninety-one (91) percent of the students from the 2014-2015 cohort demonstrated success in English proficiency with academic intervention.

Seven (7) students did not earn a grade of “B” or higher in the first academic intervention class. These students will be required to continue to complete requirements on the second academic intervention and enroll again in ENG 500, earning a grade of ‘B’ or better. Five (5) students were successful.

Students Failing to Sit for the GECE

Seventy five (75) students registered and were declared eligible to sit for the GECE. They did not sit for the examination and were classed as “no shows”. Administrative holds were placed on student records preventing further registration pending compliance with the GECE requirements.

Monitoring Students Failing to Sit for the GECE

A Follow-up Review was conducted on the seventy five (75) students who were absent from the 2014-2015 GECE. Fifty-five students representing seventy three (73) percent were successful. Twenty (20) students were not successful. Six (6) of the twenty (20) students enrolled in ENG 500 and were successful. Thirteen (13) students did not meet compliance and permanent administrative holds were placed on academic records.