



***GRADUATE ENGLISH COMPETENCY  
EXAMINATION RESULTS***

**2015-2016**

**GRADUATE STUDIES**

## **2015-2016 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](http://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**

Three hundred and ninety eight (398) master-level students were declared eligible to take the GECE during the academic year. Sixty (60) 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 were placed on student records to prevent further registration in graduate courses. Twenty six (26) were exempt based on scores from standardized test or successful completion of the Undergraduate English Proficiency Examination (UEPE) and immediate enrollment in graduate education. Consequently, three hundred and twelve (312) sat for the 2015-2016 GECE.

**Outcomes:**

Two hundred and sixty-one (261) students demonstrated proficiency on the GECE representing a seventy four (74) percent pass rate and six points below the cutoff score. Seventy one (71) students or twenty six (26) percent were required to enroll in ENG 500. This cohort represented the lowest score on the GECE in more than 10 years.

**Table 1. 2015-2016 GECE Results**

Test Dates	Eligible	Absent	Subtotal	Passed	Failed
2015-2016	398	60	312	261 (84%)	51 (16%)

**ENG 500 Advanced Laboratory Writing Course**

Fifty one (51) 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. Forty eight (48) students were successful in ENG 500. Therefore, ninety four (94) percent of the students from the 2015-2016 cohort demonstrated success in English proficiency with academic intervention.

Three (3) students did not earn a grade of “B” or higher in the class. These students were required to continue to enroll in ENG 500 and earn a grade of “B” or better.

**Students Failing to Sit for the GECE**

Sixty (60) 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 60 students who were absent from the 2015-2016 GECE. Fifty four (54) students sat for the GECE on alternate dates during the academic year. Forty eight (48) students were successful, culminating in an eighty-nine (89) percent rate. Four (4) students were required to enroll in ENG 500 and are currently enrolled. Two (2) students did not return to complete the GECE requirements and administrative holds were placed on student records.