

**OVERVIEW AND SUMMARY OF UNDERGRADUATE
ETS TEST SCORES:
COLLEGE OF BUSINESS AND MANAGEMENT
Spring 2004 – Fall 2006**

All undergraduate students in the College of Business and Management have been completing the ETS General Business Field Test since Spring 2004. The test is administered by the Dean's office at the conclusion of the college capstone course that is required of all undergraduates.

The College Curriculum Committee (CCC) has been reviewing and discussing the undergraduate results, comparing them with outcomes from its own undergraduate survey. These Committee discussions have led to discussions with college faculty who teach the college core courses.

1. The ETS major field test is an external validation tool for evaluating student learning. The General Business Field Test in Business provides an overall score and eight discipline-based scores for UIS students and also scores for the nation.

The main benefit of conducting such a test is to create an external benchmark comparison of how our students perform compared to students across the nation. Similar to SAT, GRE or GMAT, it is a convenient and reliable test. Proper scores in this test can indicate fundamental knowledge learned by students completing an undergraduate curriculum.

There should be no doubt that ETS Major Field Tests are reliable. However, the validity of the test may be debatable. One of the major issues is that the contents covered in the Major Field Tests may or may not correspond to the general curricular focus of an individual college. Presumably this lack of correspondence would be greater at institutions with distinctive, highly specialized curricula (say, the Rochester Institute of Technology) and would be less substantial for colleges with general, mainstream curricula (UIS).

CBM initiated undergraduate ETS testing to provide a baseline for measuring and tracking student learning as our *new undergraduate curriculum* came online. The new curriculum began in Fall 2003, and CBM initiated undergraduate ETS testing in Spring 2004. (Thus, Spring 2004 was this was the first year that "fast track" students could have graduated under the new curriculum.)

However, some, but not all, of our students testing in that early period were under the old curriculum and could not be expected to perform nearly as well as those completing the new curriculum. Later test dates include an increasing proportion of students under the new curriculum. Based on a separate survey administered by the Curriculum Committee each semester in the capstone classes, the Committee estimates that about 19 percent of students testing in Fall 2006 were still under the old curriculum.

The tests were submitted for scoring in four batches that are labeled here as Fall 04, Spring 05, Spring 06 and Fall 06. The complete summary of overall test results is presented below. Specifically, that table reports the average overall score for each of four UIS test groups and the 2006 national average.

There are two clear findings. First, UIS test scores have improved and now exceed the national average. Second, all other things unchanged, as the proportion of testing students who have completed the new undergraduate curriculum increases, the UIS test scores should continue to improve.

Overall MFT score comparison

	Average Score	Count	Std
Fall 04	150	98	11
Spring 05	150.5	62	13.4
Spring 06	153.7	57	11.7
Fall 06	155.5	37	11.2
National 06	151.2		

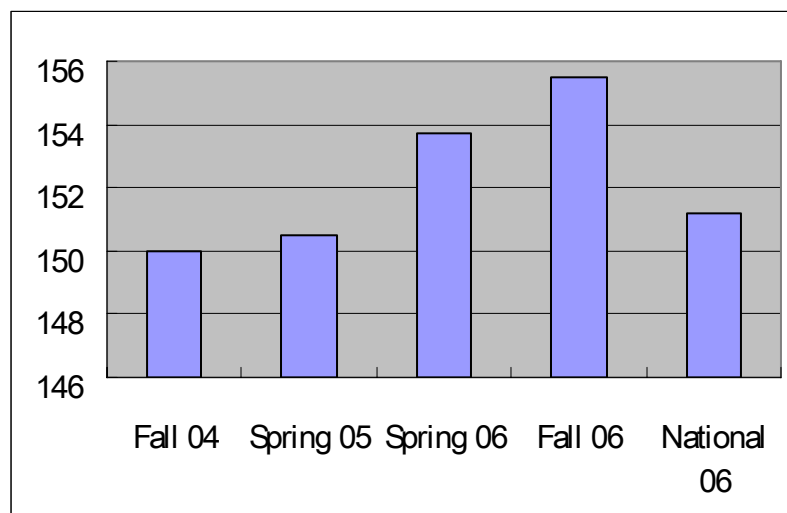


Figure 1 Overall MFT score comparison