

SCHOOL OF JOURNALISM AND MASS COMMUNICATION GRAMMAR, SPELLING AND PUNCTUATION TEST (GSP)

Students must earn a passing score on the Grammar, Spelling, and Punctuation test at Texas State before they can be admitted to the department in full-major status. A student may declare a pre-major in Mass Communication at any time by filling out a change of major form in the department office, Old Main 102. Students transferring credit for Mass Communication may not take any courses for which Mass Communication 1313 is a prerequisite until they have passed the test. **Students may take the test only three times. If you have a disability and may require an accommodation (testing accommodation, information in an alternative format, reader services), you must contact the Office of Disability Services at (512) 245-3451 prior to taking the test the first time. Verification of disability will be required.**

Schedule permitting, the GSP is offered weekly at the Testing Research-Support and Evaluation Center (TREC) located in Lower Commons Hall. Visit the TREC website at www.txstate.edu/trec to verify test dates and time.

**Bring at least one form of photo identification (student ID, driver's license, etc.)
Test payment is made on the day of the test. Check or money order (payable to Texas State) or exact cash in the amount of \$40 will be accepted. No credit or debit cards will be accepted.**

Results may be obtained in person only in the School of Journalism and Mass Communication office, Room 102, Old Main with at least one form of photo identification.

This is a special test for the Texas State School of Journalism & Mass Communication. It is a separate test from other writing proficiency tests you may have taken, and other tests may not be substituted for it.

Students are encouraged to study a grammar handbook that discusses grammar and punctuation rules and lists frequently misspelled words. Listed below are helpful books and CD-ROM's:

When Words Collide by Lauren Kessler and Duncan McDonald
Cliffs Verbal Review for Standardized Tests by Wm. A. Covino and Teeter Z. Orton
Brush Up: A Quick Guide to Basic Writing and Math Skills by Melvin Mencher and Wendy P. Shilton (CD-ROM).
Grammar 3D (CD ROM available at Alkek Library). Call Number: PE1128.B33 2000.

Tutoring help is available from several agencies on campus:

--The Writing Center in the English Department provides free 30 minute tutoring sessions run by graduate students and a few upper division undergraduates. Check with the English Department for specific times at (512) 245-3018 located in Flowers Hall, room G09.

Writing Center Practice Test:

<http://writingcenter.english.txstate.edu/gsp.html>

--The Student Learning Assistance Center (SLAC) in the Alkek Library offers free tutoring sessions. Contact the center for tutoring hours at (512) 245-2515.

SLAC Practice Test:

<http://www.txstate.edu/slac/stad-test-prep/gsp.html>

--For residence hall students, the Residence Hall Tutoring Program offers free assistance by the student tutors who have shown competence in an academic area. The schedule of sessions, which varies from hall to hall, is available at hall desks.

--First generation college students, low income students and disabled students may qualify for help from Student Support Services located in room 5-6.1 of the new LBJ Student Center. The Program, funded by the Department of Education, offers a semester-long remedial program for those who qualify. For more information, please call the Student Support Services office at (512) 245-2275.

The questions below are samples of the test format:

1. Martha, who was elected president of the organization learned yesterday that she has been awarded an academic scholarship.

- A. "Who" should be replaced with "whom."
- B. "Learned" should be replaced with "found out."
- C. A comma should be placed after "president."
- D. A comma should be placed after "organization."
- E. The sentence is correct as written.

2. The rate of failures are decreasing as a result of the remedial classes students are taking.

- A. A comma should be placed before "as."
- B. The first "are" should be changed to "is."
- C. "Students" should be changed to "student's."
- D. The second "are" should be changed to "is."
- E. The sentence is correct as written.

3. Select the correctly spelled word from the list:

- A. acommodate
- B. acomodate
- C. accommodate
- D. accomodate

Revised/Effective: 11/02/09