The Advanced Composition Exemption Examination at the University of Arkansas will change in several ways beginning in Fall 2006.

The 90-minute examination will require students to read two brief texts, provided by the test administrators at the time of the examination, and to write a well-organized, well-developed argumentative essay that supports, refutes, or qualifies a point suggested by the readings. Essays will be evaluated on the basis of the clarity and thoughtfulness of their ideas, the incorporation of the required readings, and the organization and language of the composition. In addition to learning whether they have received a passing or a failing score—no “borderline” scores will be awarded—students will receive written feedback on their examinations, sent to their university email addresses, which will help them understand their strengths and weaknesses as writers at the mid-point of their undergraduate careers.

The examination will be given four times a year at a central location on the University of Arkansas campus, to be announced by the University of Arkansas Testing Services office. During Academic Year 2006-2007, the examination will be given on September 13, February 14, June 13, and July 25. On each of these dates, the examination will begin promptly at 6 p.m. Persons planning to take the examination should arrive at the test location by 5:45 p.m. so they can check in and show two required forms of identification: a government-issued identification (driver’s license, passport, military or state identification card) and a University of Arkansas identification card. Anyone arriving after 6 p.m. will not be permitted to take the examination. There will be no off-campus administration of the examination.

To take the examination, students must have completed English 1013 and 1023 or their transfer equivalents, or have been exempted from taking these courses on the basis of ACT or Advanced Placement Examination scores, and have completed fewer than 96 hours toward graduation.

Students must register to take the examination in their college office at least two weeks prior to the test administration. Therefore, the deadlines for registration for Academic Year 2006-2007 are August 30 for the September 13 administration, January 31 for the February 14 administration, May 30 for the June 13 administration, and July 11 for the July 25 examination. Students will be invoiced a $20 fee to take the examination.

Students should note that the Advanced Composition Exemption Examination offers the possibility to be exempted from the Advanced Composition Requirement, not to receive course credit. Passing the Advanced Composition Exemption Examination remains one of four ways of completing the Advanced Composition requirement. To fulfill this requirement, a student may take English 1013 and 1023 and receive either an A or a B in 1013 and an A in 1023; or pass English 2013, Essay Writing; or pass English 2003, Advanced Composition.

**************************************************
J. Cromhout
Director of Office of Student Records & Academic Information
College of Engineering
University of Arkansas
Fayetteville, AR 72701
jcrom@uark.edu
Phone: 479-575-3053
Fax: 479-575-7744