

## **MISSION STATEMENT**

The mission of the Purdue Testing Center (PTC) is to serve students and the greater Purdue community by providing testing services for career direction, undergraduate advancement, graduate development, and professional accreditation.

## **VISION STATEMENT**

The vision of the PTC is to be a part of an integrated testing service at Purdue that operates within the standards of the National College Testing Association (NCTA) best practices and becomes a NCTA Certified facility.

## **PROGRAM GOALS**

The PTC will:

- Find a workable and stable solution for staffing back-up for all test vendor activities.
- Promote PTC testing services within guidelines of contractual agreements.
- Educate clients of personal responsibilities for use of PTC services.
- Continue collaboration with campus units in need of specific testing services.
- Work toward a completed PTC Operations Manual in preparation for NCTA certification.
- Maximize paid vendor testing usage.
- Collaborate and mutually support both Disability Resource Center (DRC) accommodated testing and Digital Education testing center.

## **CURRENT TESTS AND ASSESSMENTS OFFERED:**

- Pearson Exams
  - Graduate Management Admissions Test (GMAT)
  - Pharmacy College Admission Test (PCAT)
  - Fundamentals of Engineering (FE)
  - Pearson Test of English Academic (PTE)
  - Microsoft Certification
- College Board
  - College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
    - Twenty – three exams: Computer Science, Foreign Language, Government, History, Literature, Management, Math, Psychology, Science, Sociology.
- National Paper/Pencil Exams
  - Graduate Record Subject Exams
  - Law School Admission Test (LSAT)
- Purdue Advanced Credit
  - Chemistry & Biology
- Career Assessment
  - Myers-Briggs Type Indicator (MBTI)
  - Strong Interest Indicator (SII)
  - Major-Minor Finder (MMF)
  - Strengths Quest (SQ)

### **ASSESSMENT PLAN**

To improve the PTC and ensure progress is being made toward the aforementioned goals and desired learning outcomes, a comprehensive assessment plan is conducted. The following assessment practices will be initiated and/or continued this year:

1. To understand the needs of students and departments, PTC plans to:
  - Survey all undergraduate students at Purdue, with an emphasis on Juniors & Seniors. The survey will focus on what they know about the PTC, what exams they have taken with PTC, how they expect to use PTC as they finish their undergraduate degree. As well as, inquire about what licensure, post-grad or professional exams they might need to take to further their careers.
  - Survey academic advisors in different departments and academic units about their knowledge of what the PTC offers. Inquire about what exams their students need to further careers in their majors as well as any specific needs of the advising community.
2. PTC practices & procedures will be measured against the Association of Test Publishers and National College Testing Association Proctoring Best Practices, August 2015, by annual review with the implementation of a checklist to align practices and procedures with industry standards.
3. Implement ID card swipe technology to collect and analyze student information about PTC usage to collect and utilize student data for spring 2017.
4. Continue to monitor peak testing times to ensure ideal staffing conditions and maximize testing capacity.
5. Monitor changes and usage in all testing areas across three-year timeframe to identify and react to trends when appropriate. With the implementation of ID card swipes, the data collected will answer this question.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO STUDENT SUCCESS**

The PTC contributes to the institutional goal of enhancing retention rates, graduation rates, GPA success, and satisfaction levels of Purdue students by:

- Providing testing services for individualized needs of specific departments: Admissions, Chemistry, CCO, College of Engineering, and the Purdue Graduate School.
- Enhancing retention rates, graduation rates and well-being by providing credit options through CLEP and Purdue Advanced Credit exams. It also enhances career development with career assessments, advanced education entry and licensure exams.

The PTC contributes to the institutional goal of ensuring alumni success by providing:

- Alumni Career Testing – MBTI, SII, MMF, SQ.
- Advanced Degree entry exams – GMAT, GRE Subject Exams, LSAT, PCAT.
- Licensure exam opportunities – FE, Microsoft.

### **CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE UNIVERSITY'S DIVERSITY ACTION PLAN**

1. The PTC contributes to the Provost's Advisory Committee on Diversity Action items in the following ways:

- The PTC utilizes multicultural connections on campus for referrals for hiring national proctoring staff. Hired proctors who meet the program requirements are invited to continue proctoring in ongoing seasons.
  - The PTC offers the Pearson Test of English that directly serves international students from Purdue and other campuses.
  - PTC staff have or will be participating in a personal [Intercultural Development Inventory \(IDI\)](#) debriefing with a certified IDI facilitator.
2. The PTC aspires to contribute to the Provost's Advisory Committee on Diversity Action Items in the following ways.
- Encourage staff to participate in cultural co-curricular activities and increase understanding of University cultural centers and diversity resources.
  - Support campus diversity efforts by offering available Diversity and Inclusion flyers at the PTC.
  - Add additional diverse staff as opportunity arises within the testing center.

**NOTABLE CHANGES FROM 2015-16 Academic Year**

1. Prometric testing was added at the PTC this year as a satellite site for MCAT exams. A total of six MCAT exams were given between April and August. Unfortunately, in October, Prometric increased testing dates for 2017 at the main Prometric testing centers and recalled the contracts for all satellite sites. This ended the ability to offer the MCAT exam.
2. No permanent staffing was changed this year. On-call staffing for emergency coverage of the testing center was completed but then dissolved with staff changes within the DRC unit.
3. Collaborations expanded with the DRC Testing Center this year to assist with finals and other emergency testing needs. Discussions were held with Digital and Professional Education as well, to find potential areas to support each other. The PTC additionally continued support of advising units by participating in the Advising Resource Fair. Annual distributions of CLEP information continued this year to Advising units, Veterans Success, and other Student Success areas. Inquiries regarding potential Prometric and Pearson exams came in from the Veterinary School and Purdue HR, but the vendors would not allow the exams to be given at the PTC.
4. No timelines were specifically changed by the PTC. However, the Biology Department changed the time frame of the BIO 121 test out exam from all year to the first two weeks of each semester.
5. No major changes were made. The new infographic was offered as a resource at campus events and PTC pens were purchased for distribution at campus events as well.
6. Other campus units, including PTC, have discussed creating a central testing unit and location to provide a more synchronous and economical testing service to the University.

**OUR DATA**

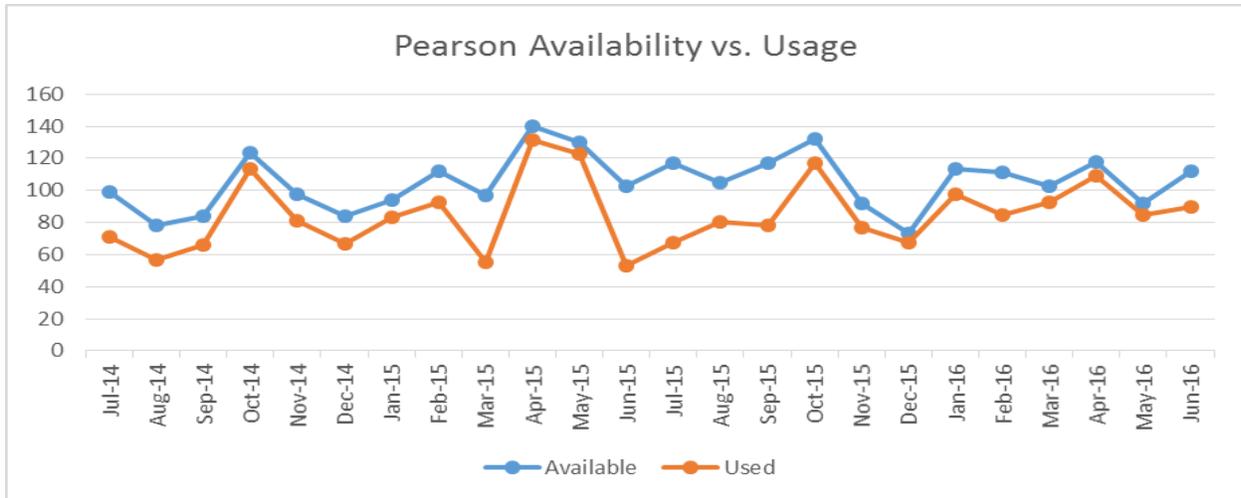


Figure 1: Available Pearson hours compared to actual student usage on dates the PTC was open.



Figure 2: Number of Pearson appointments at PTC each month. This information is used to make staffing decisions based on peak testing times.

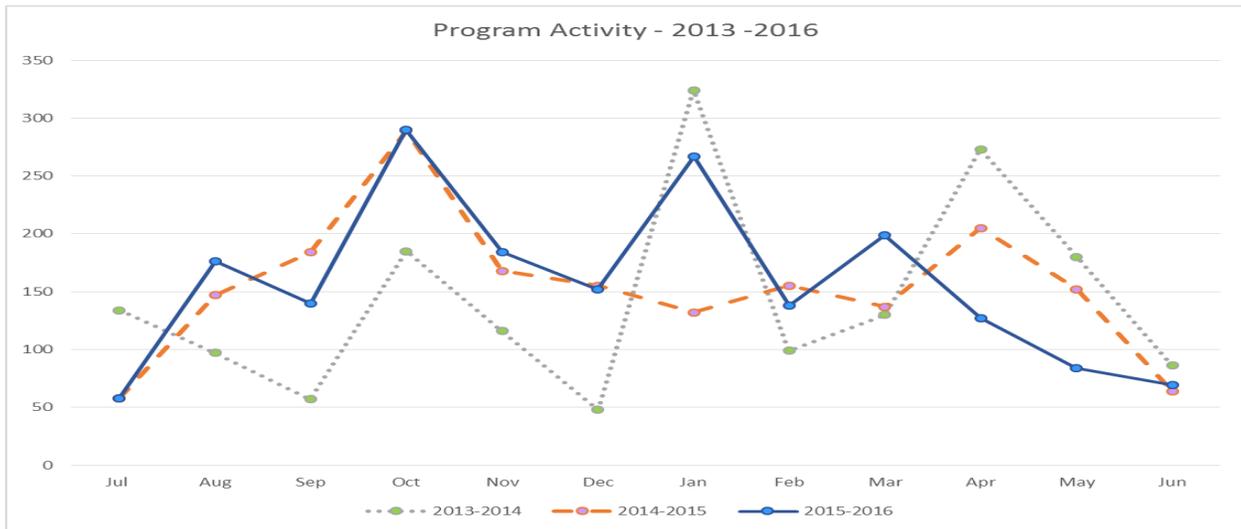


Figure 3: Reflects the transition in PTC activity for all activities over the last 3 years, showing that activity has started to stabilize from the high peaks and valleys from the conception of Pearson testing in 2013.

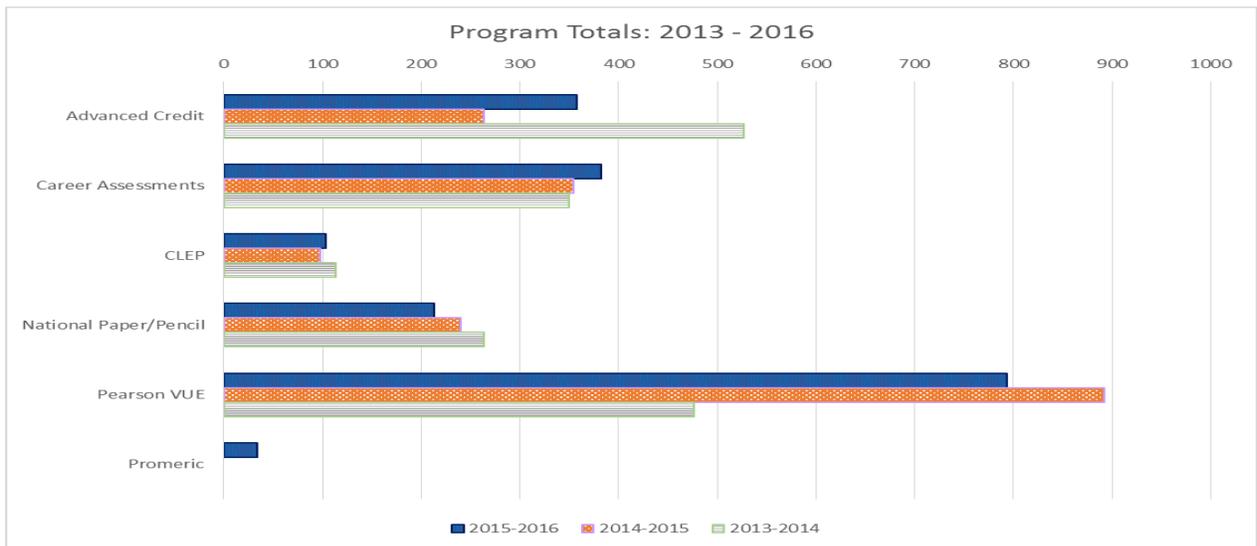


Figure 4: Total annual amount of testing activity by program. Information is compared to previous years to identify trends in testing activity.

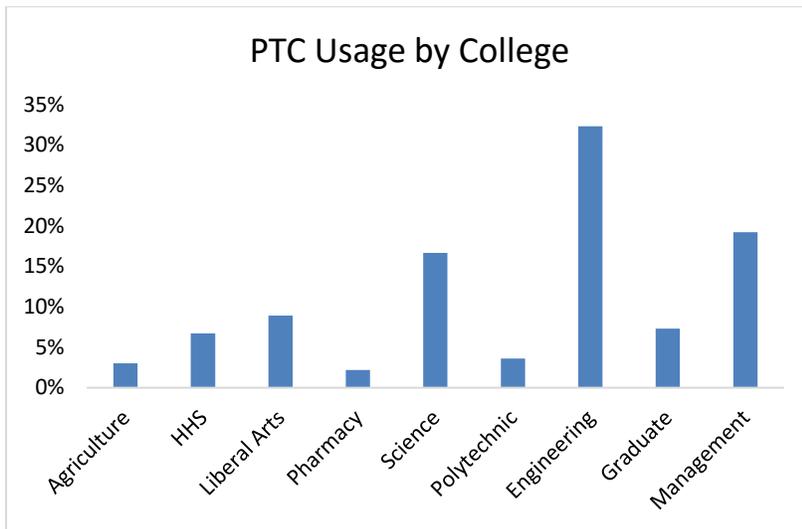


Figure 5: Shows the highest usage by Engineering, Science and Management which directly correlate to usage of Advanced Credit Chemistry exams, as well Pearson, (FE) Fundamentals of Engineering exam and (GMAT) Graduate Management Admission Test.

### **OUR STORY**

What is now known as the PTC was formed from a selection of several units on campus.

Prior to 1974, when Purdue merged the Dean of Men and the Dean of Women under Beverly Stone, career services were offered separately for men and women. The administration change merged career services and Placement Services into what is now known as the Center for Career Opportunities (CCO), which began serving the entire student population. During this era, a small office for Testing Services resided in Hovde Hall with oversight of national exams. Simultaneously, the country was responding to the Rehabilitation Act of 1973 and the University began to move through the required physical accommodations required for its student body. In 1987, Betty Nelson succeeded Dean Cook and began to assess the educational needs of students with disabilities. She then helped to create Adaptive Services, now known as the DRC. With the completion of Schleman Hall for Student Services, Testing Services was moved from Hovde and began to provide testing services for students with disabilities, along with career assessments, national exams, and Advanced Credit.

In the summer of 2012, testing for students with disabilities was moved from the Office of the Dean of Students (ODOS) Testing Center to the DRC Testing Center. Also at that time, many of the paper/pencil national exams began to switch to computer-based testing. To continue administering these essential national exams, the ODOS Testing Center opened as a PEARSON Select Center in January of 2014 for computer-based testing.

In the summer of 2014, the University reorganized three administrative units: Student Affairs, Undergraduate Academic Affairs and Housing & Food Services. This process moved the ODOS Testing Center from oversight by the ODOS Counseling area to oversight through the DRC and ultimately landed the units in Student Success Programs. In the summer of 2015, the name of the testing center was changed to the Purdue Testing Center.

## **YEARLY CYCLE & TIMELINE**

<b>MAJOR EVENTS</b>	<b>Seasonal Occurrence</b>
Advanced Credit Exams	August, October, January, March
National paper/pencil Exams	Fall = 4 Spring = 2 Summer = 1
Career Assessments (individual)	All Year – Peak in October & November
Career Assessments (groups)	September, November & January/February
CLEP	All year – Peak in December/January & April/May
Pearson Testing	All year – Peak in October/November & April/May

## **BENCHMARK PROGRAMS**

PTC benchmarks against the following programs:

- The NCTA provides industry standards with proctoring practices and testing center certification and serves as a guide for PTC services.

PTC aspires to benchmark against the following programs:

- Michigan State University, Penn State University.

The PTC also utilizes the following resources to stay up-to-date on research and best practices:

- NCTA list serve.
- NCTA web page and resources.
- NCTA conference attendance.

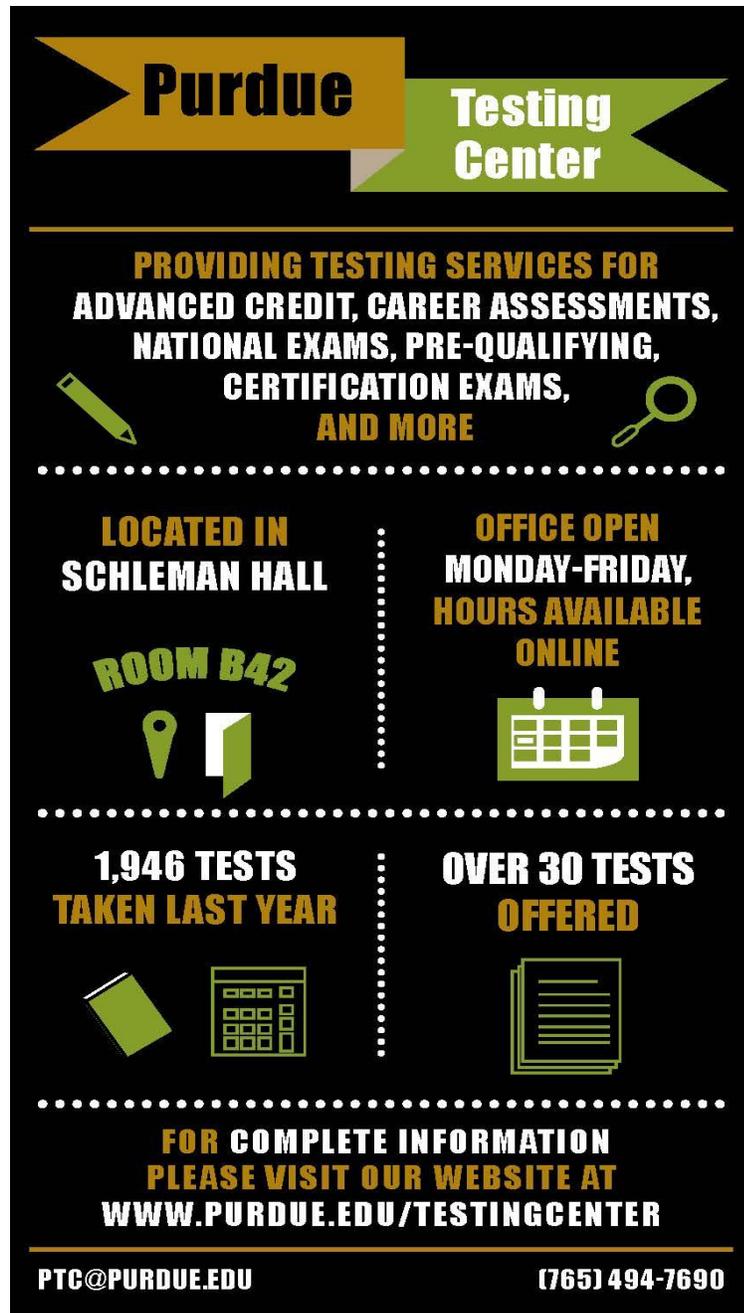
## **OPPORTUNITIES FOR FUNDRAISING AND DEVELOPMENT**

1. The biggest need of the PTC is to continue to ensure funds for the proctor position. This can be accomplished by increasing exam options, establishing a seat fee for CLEP exams, and outside funding or gifting.
2. Pearson appointment activity dropped by 98 appointments this year. Overall, Pearson testing also began to level out with less exaggerated peaks and valleys. This change created a better work flow for staff, but also requires greater staff availability throughout the year. A continued effort to resolve back-up staff for the PTC will need to be a high priority.
3. Statistically, the Engineering School and international students are the highest users of the PTC services. Ongoing communication with the First Year Engineering advisors will be important to maintain along with the office of International Students & Scholars. Specifically to ensure that students have the most updated information for PTC services.

## **LEGEND**

- CCO – Center for Career Opportunities
- CLEP – College Level Examination Program
- ETS – Educational Testing Service
- FE – Fundamentals of Engineering Exam
- GMAT – Graduate Management Admission Exam
- MBTI – Myers-Briggs Type Indicator
- MMF – Major-Minor Finder
- MCAT – Medical College Admission Test
- NCTA – National College Testing Association
- PCAT – Pharmacy College Admission Test
- PTC – Purdue Testing Center
- PTE – Pearson Test of English – Academic
- PRAXIS – Licensure & certification exams for teaching professionals

- SII – Strong Interest Indicator
- SQ – Strengths Quest



**Purdue Testing Center**

**PROVIDING TESTING SERVICES FOR  
ADVANCED CREDIT, CAREER ASSESSMENTS,  
NATIONAL EXAMS, PRE-QUALIFYING,  
CERTIFICATION EXAMS,  
AND MORE**

**LOCATED IN  
SCHLEMAN HALL**

**ROOM B42**

**OFFICE OPEN  
MONDAY-FRIDAY,  
HOURS AVAILABLE  
ONLINE**

**1,946 TESTS  
TAKEN LAST YEAR**

**OVER 30 TESTS  
OFFERED**

**FOR COMPLETE INFORMATION  
PLEASE VISIT OUR WEBSITE AT  
[WWW.PURDUE.EDU/TESTINGCENTER](http://WWW.PURDUE.EDU/TESTINGCENTER)**

**PTC@PURDUE.EDU** **(765) 494-7690**

The infographic features a black background with gold and green accents. It includes icons for a pencil, a magnifying glass, a location pin, a calendar, a book, and a stack of papers. The text is arranged in a grid-like fashion, separated by dotted lines.