

GRAD SCHOOL: The evils of the standardized test

Even if a student has a solid academic record...a score on one test may keep her out of the graduate school of her choice.

JONI SMITH
Managing Editor

The end of the school year is quickly approaching, leaving many students to wonder where they will be after May.

For a number of students, plans after May include graduate school, and with graduate school comes the headache of taking standardized tests.

The LSAT, MCAT, GRE and GMAT are just some of the standardized tests that students worry about, study for and ultimately despise.

My biggest gripe about standardized testing is that graduate and professional schools weigh them so heavily in admissions decisions.

That means that one test on one measly day can make you or break you in the minds of admissions officers. Even if a student has a solid academic record, worthy extracurricular activities, impressive recommendation letters and has exhibited admirable leadership skills--a score on one test may keep her out of the graduate school of their choice.

My next gripe about standardized tests is the material covered in them.

Why should an English or

history major be expected to know calculus?

On the other hand, why should a chemistry or math major be expected to know what a diatribe is?

I understand the theory behind standardized tests: grades are relative to the institution; an A at one school may not be comparable to an A at another. Standardized tests are a way to put everyone on a level playing field so that they can be judged by a common variable.

However, if standardized tests are needed, then why can't, for example, math majors take a standardized test that deals with math, not analogies. After all, math is what they are best at, and it is the field they plan to pursue in graduate school.

Since standardized tests have been required for admission into graduate schools for some time, it is unlikely that they will be looked upon as unnecessary any time soon.

In the mean time, students will have to continue to spend thousands of dollars on Kaplan courses in hopes of doing well in a subject area that they have not taken a course in since their freshman year.

Do you think grad schools should nix standardized tests?

Joni Smith wants to know. Send her an email at smithjo@meredith.edu



The Campus Forum

As students representing Meredith College, we must be 'above reproach,' says reader.

Dear Editor,

Despite the flaws of this institution, it becomes more and more evident to me each day as to why Meredith College has been esteemed as such a respectable and noteworthy college.

When I tell others that I attend Meredith College, I can't help but to be proud of the high standards of excellence that this school upholds in academics and its reputation for being a school that teaches generations of women who become successful both in and out of the workforce.

Since Saturday afternoon I have felt a bit of my pride and respect for this school vanish. As a volunteer for the Experience Meredith visitation day for prospective students, I had the opportunity to participate in the Activities' Fair where students and their parents came to learn more about the organizations that Meredith has to offer.

While I judged the

Activities Fair to have been a success based on the number of people attending, I was appalled to witness the blatant displays of lesbian affection taking place at the Spectrum table.

Before you consider me to be discriminatory, may I give a disclaimer: As a student who has served on SGA Senate here at Meredith for the past two years, I feel that any organization, regardless, has a right to be recognized as part of the Meredith community, provided that there is student interest and

parents and prospective students as they witnessed the two girls kissing and the other girls who were also representing that organization rolling around on the ground with one straddling the other.

I cannot think of a public place where it would be appropriate for a young man and a young woman to be engaging in suggestive sexual activity (particularly laying on the ground together one on top of the other with their hips locked).

Therefore, what makes it O.K. for two women to be so publicly distasteful?

"I cannot think of a public place where it would be appropriate for a young man and a young woman to be engaging in suggestive sexual activity (particularly laying on the ground together one on top of the other with their hips locked)."

If Meredith College intends to maintain its reputation as a respectable institution then those representing clubs and organizations that ultimately are a branch of this

school, need to be above reproach and use discretion and tasteful judgment before acting in ways that would offend both students as well as guests to this community.

Sincerely,

Jillian Southerland
Class of 2004

support for the organization, that there are initiators making the proposal for the organization and, most of all, that the organization will enhance the Meredith community.

It is not my intention to attack the Spectrum organization in any way, although I disagree with many of the fundamental principles of the club.

I am more concerned for the image of Meredith that was portrayed to those

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