Preparation for Major Field Achievement Test
PSCI 4442
Spring 2009 (Buckley)

**Purpose of taking the test:**
The Department of Physical Sciences constantly gathers information on our effectiveness in providing excellent instruction to students in our program, as well as for other majors coming through our department for any reason. Annually the department assembles a Program Quality Improvement Report (PQIR) comparing the measured learning outcomes of students with our targeted outcomes. This report allows us to make program adjustments to improve any program offered in the department.

The Major Field Achievement Test (MFAT) has been a key component in looking at our progress in different areas. In the department, we typically have chemistry majors, physics majors, and now chemical education majors. The chemistry and chemical education majors take the chemistry MFAT, the physics majors take the physics MFAT, and the natural science majors take the biology, chemistry, or physics depending on their major concentration. These data have been compiled over about 15 years and have been helpful in checking for strengths and weaknesses at the subdiscipline level.

**Details about the MFAT next week**
Seniors graduating in chemistry, physics, natural science, or chemical education in May, August, or December of 2009 will take the MFAT on May 7th from 3:00 – 5:00 in the Goodyear Room. You are allocated two hours to take the test. However, for chemistry majors, there is also a short biochemistry set of questions for which you are allocated extra time.

**Motivation for taking the test:**
To get a grade in PSCI 4442, you must complete the MFAT. Your actual performance will not be considered in assigning a grade, but without completing the MFAT you will receive an “I” until you have taken the exam.

For reporting purposes in our PQIR, we only look at the aggregate data. However, we do get back the individual results. When those results come back this summer, I will mail them to you at your address of record in myCU. It is interesting for you to see your results in comparison to others graduating from our program as well others nationally in the same discipline. Certainly an element of pride will encourage you to do as well as possible on this exam.

**PLEASE SEE REVERSE SIDE**
Preparation:
We haven’t gone through a long list of preparatory tests this semester to get you ready. There is some help available if you go to http://www.ets.org/portal/site/ets/menuitem.1488512ecfd5b8849a77b13bc3921509/?vgnextoid=a73b19ecd3b56110VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD&vgnextchannel=784446f1674f4010VgnVCM10000022f95190RCRD
(I challenge you to type that in right the first time! I will also put this document in Blackboard so you can just click on it and see it.) From that page, just click on whichever sample questions your want to see. You can also select the other tabs, for example Test Content that gives a breakdown of the areas, on that page to see an overview of content the various tests.

As a faculty we sat and took the MFAT several years ago. My perception was that there wasn’t a lot of trivial remembering of formulas, but rather you worked with the larger concepts. You may want to work through the sample questions, maybe even pick up a freshman textbook to help remind you of all of those things you have forgotten over the years.