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**William P Abrams\*** (abramswp@longwood.edu), Department of Math and CS, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23909, and **Jeffery Peden**, Department of Math and CS, 201 High Street, Farmville, VA 23909. *Teaching to the Test (or how I stopped worrying and learned to love the Major Field Achievement Test.)*.

The Major Field Tests are a series of tests given by the Educational Testing Service for the purpose of "measur[ing] the basic knowledge and understanding achieved by students in a major field of study". In the late 1990s the Department of Mathematics and Computer Science at Longwood University put a lot of thought into whether to use the MFAT to assess the Mathematics and Computer Science majors. This was motivated by State and University pressure as well as our own desire to find a way to determine how well we were educating our students as compared to other institutions. The department goals, written in 2002, reflected the decision to include the MFAT as a requirement for our curriculum. We started giving the test to the students in our Senior Seminar classes during the 2002 - 2003 academic year. Initially there were changes in the way mathematics and computer science approached the tests. In addition there were changes in the way mathematics viewed the tests during the time we were giving the tests. And, of course, there have been changes in the way we prepare students for the tests. This talk will explore these changes, and how we have moved from resenting having to give these tests to viewing them, at least in part, as good thing. (Received September 08, 2006)