

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
CAAP OUTCOMES
Fall 2008

Southwestern Oklahoma State University added an annual standardized university examination last year as a component of institutional assessment, the importance of which is supported by the Student Government Association. Faculty Committees and Administration agreed to utilize four components of ACT's Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP): Critical Thinking, Reading, Writing Essay, and Writing Skills. Eligible Southwestern Juniors were invited to be involved in completing two or four tests. Eighteen two-hour testing time slots were offered during a two week period. Eligible Juniors were informed of this opportunity through letters, e-mails, and displayed posters. Eligibility was based on the following criteria:

1. Earned 60-89 credit hours
2. Earned at least 22 general education hours at Southwestern
3. Earned credit at Southwestern in the 1113 English Composition I and 1213 English Composition II courses
4. Earned a grade of "C" or better in the 1213 English Composition II course (credit from advanced placement exams acceptable)

Out of 403 students invited to participate, 40 (10%) actually contributed to this important project; 15% participated last year (49). As a means of incentive and showing our appreciation for their contribution, participants received \$20 for each appointment to take two tests. Some students signed up for two appointments in order to take all four tests. Testing became competitive when participating Juniors were informed that twenty cash prizes of \$25 - \$300 would be awarded for the highest scores.

Tests were administered October 20, 2008 – October 31, 2008 by Southwestern's Assessment Center staff. Subsequently, scoring and reporting was completed by ACT/CAAP. The impressive results of the efforts from our examinees were slightly better than the national average as well improved over last year's results. On a scale of 40-80, Southwestern juniors received an average score of 64.3 on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the national average of 62.3. In Reading, our students earned an average score of 64.0; the national average was 62.5. Our juniors did slightly better in the reading content area of Social Sciences than in the Arts and Literature portion of the Reading test. Southwestern students received an average score of 66.2 on the Writing Skills objective test compared to the national average of 64.0. On a scale of 1-6, Southwestern juniors received an average score of 3.3 on the Writing Essay test; the national average was 3.2.

Most of the students completing the exams were White/Caucasian females ages 19 to 25. Nearly all of the participating students held English as their first language and originally enrolled at Southwestern as freshmen. All of the examinees had full-time status, and the majority plan to return to Southwestern. Most students reported that they tried their best while testing.

Upon receiving test results, we congratulated the following on high achievement: In Critical Thinking, Rayanna Hosokawa and Daniel Moran each won \$250 for tying with the highest and second highest scores; Emily Garrison, Shasta Jones, and Kari Watkins each won \$59 for tying for the third, fourth and fifth highest scores. In Reading, Emily Garrison won \$300 for the highest score; Rayanna Hosokawa, Megan Lee, and Daniel Moran each won \$117 for tying for the second, third, and fourth highest score; Jessica Boling won \$25 for the fifth highest score. In Writing Essay, Jessica Boling won \$300 for the highest score; Reanna Barker, Crystal Horn, Daniel Moran, and Minoma Nixon all won \$94 for tying for second, third, fourth, and fifth places. In Writing Skills, Emily Garrison, Megan Lee, and Daniel Moran each won \$200 for tying for the highest score, second highest score, and third highest score. Kari Watkins won \$50 for the fourth highest score; and Reanna Barker won \$25 for the fifth highest score.

Fortunately, this year the number of Southwestern students taking the CAAP was enough to warrant an ACT-CAAP Linkage Report. Although the total number of 40 examinees was less than last year's 49, most students took advantage of the added choice to take all four tests. In Reading, 16% of Southwestern students made lower than expected progress on CAAP as compared to 10% of the reference group; 80% made expected progress as compared to 84%; and, 4% made higher than expected progress on the CAAP as compared to 6% of the reference group. Ninety-six percent of SWOSU students made expected progress on the CAAP Writing Skills test as compared to 82% of the reference group, and 4% made higher than expected progress. No Southwestern students made lower than expected progress on that test.

Following is supporting data.

**CAAP Institutional Summary Report
Fall 2008**

N=40

TEST (SCALE)	SWOSU / 2007		SWOSU / 2008		National / 2008	
	Freq.	Avg. Score	Freq.	Avg. Score	Freq.	Avg. Score
Critical Thinking (40-80)	24	63.3	29	64.4	10,746	62.3
Reading (40-80)	25	62.9	30	64.1	18,591	62.5
Reading Arts/Lit. (5-25)	25	15.6	30	16.2	18,591	15.6
Reading Soc. Sc. (5-25)	25	16.8	30	17.4	18,591	16.6
Writing Essay (1-6)	25	3.5	21	3.3	10,586	3.2
Essay 1 (1-6)	25	3.5	21	3.0	10,586	3.2
Essay 2 (1-6)	25	3.4	21	3.5	10,586	3.2
Writing Skills (40-80)	24	64.3	29	66.3	24,453	64.0
WS Usage/Mech. (5-25)	24	17.3	29	18.1	24,453	17.0
WS Rhetorical (5-25)	24	17.2	29	18.3	24,453	17.0

Results reported are based on a frequency of 5 or more participants.

SWOSU Demographics		Critical Thinking		Reading		Writing Essay		Writing Skills	
Category	Response	Freq.	Avg. Score	Freq.	Avg. Score	Freq.	Avg. Score	Freq.	Avg. Score
Ethnicity	White/Caucasian	18	64	17	66	17	n/a	18	67
Gender	Female	23	64	21	64	21	n/a	6	66
	Male	6	65	9	64	9	n/a	6	66
Age	19-20	15	66	15	66	15	n/a	15	67
	21-25	11	62	13	62	13	n/a	11	65
English	First Language	27	65	28	65	28	n/a	27	66
Enrolled as Freshman	Yes	27	64	28	64	28	n/a	27	66
Student Status	Full-time	29	64	30	64	30	n/a	29	66
Cumulative GPA	2.51 - 3.00	6	64	5	61	5	n/a	6	66
	3.01 - 3.50	6	65	7	63	7	n/a	6	67
	3.51 and above	15	65	14	66	14	n/a	15	66
Educational plans	Return to this school	26	65	27	64	27	n/a	26	66
Effort	Tried my Best	20	65	19	65	21	n/a	23	67
	Gave Moderate Effort	7	63	9	63			6	65