

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
CAAP OUTCOMES
2010–2011

For the fourth academic year, Southwestern Oklahoma State University has administered an annual standardized examination as a component of institutional assessment, the importance of which is supported by the Student Government Association. Faculty Committees and Administration agreed to utilize two components of ACT's Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP): Critical Thinking and Writing Essay.

FRESHMEN

For the first time, Freshmen were asked to complete one of the two tests during English Composition I class periods. Four hundred forty-three freshmen participated; 207 took the Critical Thinking test, and 236 took the Writing Essay. Tests were administered October 7, 2010 – October 20, 2010 by Southwestern's Assessment Center staff. Subsequently, scoring and reporting were completed by ACT/CAAP. The scores of our freshmen examinees were slightly below the national average of other freshmen examinees. On a scale of 40-80, Southwestern freshmen received an average score of 59.9 on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the freshmen national average of 61.0. On a scale of 1-6, SWOSU freshmen received an average score of 2.9 on the Writing Essay test; the freshmen national average was 3.0.

Most of the students completing the exams were White/Caucasian females, ages 18 and under. Nearly all of the participating students held English as their first language, had full-time status, and plan to return to Southwestern. The major of the majority of examinees was either a Health Profession or Education. Most students reported that they tried their best while testing.

SENIORS

Eligible Southwestern Seniors were asked to volunteer to complete both CAAP tests. Forty two-hour testing time slots were offered to seniors scheduled for the two-week period of January 20, 2011 – February 3, 2011. Seniors were informed of this opportunity through letters, e-mails, and displayed flyers. Eligibility was based on the following criteria:

1. Have not taken CAAP tests as a junior or senior at SWOSU before.
2. Earned at least 90 credit hours (credit from advanced placement exams acceptable)
3. Earned at least 22 general education hours at Southwestern
4. Earned credit at Southwestern for the 1213 English Composition II course with a grade of "C" or better (credit from advanced placement exams acceptable)

Out of about 387 seniors invited to participate, 28 (7%) actually contributed to this important project; 11% participated last year (36 juniors). As a means of incentive and showing our appreciation for the contribution of seniors outside of class time, participants received \$20 for the testing appointment to take the two tests.

Scoring and reporting were completed by ACT/CAAP. The scores of our Spring 2011 senior examinees were slightly above the national average of other senior examinees. On a scale of 40-80, Southwestern seniors received an average score of 66.4 (mean score of 64.9 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the seniors national average of 63.0. On a scale of 1-6, SWOSU seniors received an average score of 3.4 (mean score of 3.4 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Writing Essay test; the seniors national average was 3.3.

Most of the seniors completing the exams were White/Caucasian females, ages 21 – 25, and enrolled at Southwestern as Freshmen. All held English as their first language, and nearly all had full-time status as a Southwestern student. Most plan to return to Southwestern. The major of the majority of examinees was either a Health Profession, Business, or Education. All of the Seniors reported that they tried their best while testing.

SUMMARY

Both Freshmen and Seniors competed for cash prizes awarded for highest scores in order to gain increased effort on performance. These achievement prizes were awarded in four different categories based on the ACT scores of Freshmen, and based on the current GPA of Seniors. In this way, students were encouraged to make their best effort.

While scores of our freshmen were slightly below the national average, the impressive scores of our juniors and seniors since 2007 are slightly above the national average. In addition, Southwestern takes pride in the fact that our junior and senior examinees exceed the Critical Thinking scores of our freshmen by five points, and the Essay scores of our freshmen by 0.5 points. This is an indication of the value-added performance gain that our students achieved while enrolled in our general education program.

Following is supporting data.

CAAP Institutional Summary Report

Fall 2007 - Spring 2011

TEST (SCALE)	Freshmen				Seniors			
	SWOSU		Nat. / 2010		SWOSU Jun/Sen		Nat. / 2010	
	Freq.	Mean Score	Freq.	Mean Score	Freq.	Mean Score	Freq.	Mean Score
Critical Thinking (40-80)	207	59.9	11,670	61.0	111	64.9	18,980	63.0
Writing Essay (1-6)	236	2.9	6,622	3.0	105	3.4	12,225	3.3

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

2010/2011 SWOSU Demographics		Critical Thinking			
		SWOSU Freshmen		SWOSU Seniors	
Category	Response	Freq.	Mean Score	Freq.	Mean Score
Ethnicity	African Am./Black	7	56	0	
	Am. Ind./Alaskan	8	63	2	n/a
	Asian/Pacific Islander	5	58	0	
	Mex. Am./Chicano	14	57	0	
	White/Caucasian	150	60	25	66
Gender	Female	235	60	19	66
	Male	101	60	9	68
Age	18 and under	123	60	0	
	19-20	65	60	2	n/a
	21-25	7	58	20	66
English	First Language	193	60	28	66
	Not First Language	6	57	0	
Enrolled as Freshman	Yes	199	60	26	66
Student Status	Full-time	198	60	26	66
Cumulative GPA	2.01 - 2.50	12	59	3	n/a
	2.51 - 3.00	18	57	5	63
	3.01 - 3.50	35	60	7	64
	3.51 and above	32	62	13	69
Educational plans	Return to this school	180	60	16	67
	Transfer to diff. sch.	19	60	1	n/a
	Other	2	n/a	11	66
College Major	Biological Sciences	7	66	2	n/a
	Business	12	61	5	67
	Community Serv.	5	55	0	
	Education	21	59	4	n/a
	Engineering	7	60	0	
	Fine & Applied Arts	8	63	3	n/a
	Health Professions	67	61	7	69
	Social Sciences	11	58	3	n/a
Effort	Tried my Best	112	61.5	28	66.3
	Gave Moderate Effort	51	59.2	0	
	Gave Little Effort	9	58.7	0	

SOUTHWESTERN OK STATE UNIVERSITY

CAAP

Score Comparison

2010-2011

SWOSU FRESHMEN					
CUMULATIVE CAAP SCORES					
Fall 2010					
CT	n=207	%	ESSAY	n=236	%
72-80	0	0.00%	5.25-6.00	0	0.00%
71	3	1.45%	5.00	0	0.00%
70	0	0.00%	4.75	0	0.00%
69	5	2.42%	4.50	1	0.42%
68	7	3.38%	4.25	0	0.00%
67	7	3.38%	4.00	10	4.24%
66	8	3.86%	3.75	8	3.39%
65	6	2.90%	3.50	17	7.20%
64	17	8.21%	3.25	15	6.36%
63	9	4.35%	3.00	110	46.61%
62	13	6.28%	2.75	14	5.93%
61	21	10.14%	2.50	35	14.83%
60	15	7.25%	2.25	12	5.08%
59	12	5.80%	2.00	14	5.93%
58	17	8.21%	1.00-1.75	0	0.00%
57	9	4.35%			
56	18	8.70%			
55	12	5.80%			
54	8	3.86%			
53	9	4.35%			
52	2	0.97%			
51	5	2.42%			
50	3	1.45%			
49	1	0.48%			
40-48	0	0.00%			
	207	100.00%		236	100.00%
Subtotal of high scores:					
63-71	62	29.95%	3.25-5.00	51	21.61%
Mean Scores:					
59.93			2.94		
2010 NATIONAL Mean Scores:					
61.00			3.00		

SWOSU JUNIORS/SENIORS					
CUMULATIVE CAAP SCORES					
Fall 2007 - Spring 2011					
CT	n=111	%	ESSAY	n=105	%
72-80	0	0.00%	5.25-6.00	0	0.00%
71	7	6.31%	5.00	1	0.95%
70	15	13.51%	4.75	0	0.00%
69	8	7.21%	4.50	4	3.81%
68	10	9.01%	4.25	2	1.90%
67	11	9.91%	4.00	18	17.14%
66	5	4.50%	3.75	11	10.48%
65	8	7.21%	3.50	19	18.10%
64	10	9.01%	3.25	13	12.38%
63	6	5.41%	3.00	27	25.71%
62	4	3.60%	2.75	4	3.81%
61	6	5.41%	2.50	4	3.81%
60	3	2.70%	2.25	1	0.95%
59	6	5.41%	2.00	1	0.95%
58	2	1.80%	1.00-1.75		
57	3	2.70%			
56	2	1.80%			
55	4	3.60%			
54	1	0.90%			
53	0	0.00%			
52	0	0.00%			
51	0	0.00%			
50	0	0.00%			
49	0	0.00%			
40-48	0	0.00%			
	111	100.00%		105	100.00%
Subtotal of high scores:					
63-71	80	72.07%	3.25-5.00	68	64.76%
Mean Scores:					
64.9			3.43		
2010 NATIONAL Mean Scores:					
63.00			3.30		