

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
CAAP OUTCOMES
Fall 2007

Southwestern Oklahoma State University has added an annual standardized university 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 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 of the four tests. Four two-hour testing time slots and individual appointments 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 (not including hours credited through advanced placement exams)
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

Out of 327 students invited to participate, 49 (15%) actually contributed to this important project. As a means of incentive and showing our appreciation for their contribution, participants received a \$10 Panorama coupon. Their names were also entered into a drawing for twelve cash prizes. There were four chances to win each of the following amounts: \$25, \$50, and \$100. Testing became competitive when participating Juniors were informed that at least twenty cash prizes of \$25 - \$300 would be awarded for the highest scores.

Tests were administered October 22, 2007 – November 2, 2007 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. On a scale of 40-80, Southwestern juniors received an average score of 63.3 on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the national average of 62.6. In Reading, our students earned an average score of 62.9; the national average was 62.6. 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 64.3 on the Writing Skills objective test compared to the national average of 64.1. On a scale of 1-6, Southwestern juniors received an average score of 3.5 on the Writing Essay test; the national average was 3.1.

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. The majority of the examinees had full-time status and plan to return to Southwestern. Most students reported that they tried their best while testing.

Cash drawing winners of \$100 are LaGena Elmore, Candice Gaffney, Lacey Scheffler, and Theresa Shaklee. \$50 winners are Nicole Floyd, Bobbi Poff, Maxine Quaye, and Chantel Summers. Winners of \$25 are Ashley Calhoun, James Crittenden, Cole Huber, and Nathan Treadaway.

Upon receiving test results, we congratulated the following on high achievement: In Critical Thinking, Theresa Shaklee won \$300 for the highest score; Emily Corrigan, Casey Daniels, Richard Gelnar, and Adam Thiel each won \$200 for tying for the second highest score. In Reading, Christopher Baker won \$300 for the highest score; Candice Gaffney and Nathan Treadaway each won \$200 for tying for the second highest score; James Crittenden and Toni Humphrey each won \$100 for tying for the third highest score. In Writing Essay, Christy Huff won \$300 for the highest score; Cole Huber won \$200 for the second highest score; Toni Humphrey, Bobbi Poff, Heather Shelton Harmon, Ashley Slemper, and Nathan Treadaway each won \$100 for tying for the third highest score. In Writing Skills, Kelsey Alexander won \$300 for the highest score; Casey Daniels, Sarah Ivy, and Theresa Shaklee each won \$200 for the second highest score; Camella Hodges and Adam Thiel each won \$100 for the third highest score.

Unfortunately, the number of Southwestern students taking the CAAP was not enough to warrant an ACT-CAAP Linkage Report. However, we hope to improve the number of participants in future years.

Following is supporting data.

**CAAP Institutional Summary Report
Fall 2007**

N=49

TEST (SCALE)	SWOSU		National	
	Freq.	Avg. Score	Freq.	Avg. Score
Critical Thinking (40-80)	24	63.3	12,073	62.6
Reading (40-80)	25	62.9	20,272	62.6
Reading Arts/Lit. (5-25)	25	15.6	20,272	15.6
Reading Soc. Sc. (5-25)	25	16.8	20,272	16.6
Writing Essay (1-6)	25	3.5	14,347	3.1
Essay 1 (1-6)	25	3.5	14,347	3.2
Essay 2 (1-6)	25	3.4	14,347	3.1
Writing Skills (40-80)	24	64.3	28,063	64.1
WS Usage/Mech. (5-25)	24	17.3	28,063	17.0
WS Rhetorical (5-25)	24	17.2	28,063	17.1

Results reported are based on a frequency of 10 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	20	64	20	64	20	n/a	20	65
Gender	Female	18	62	19	62	19	n/a	18	65
Age	19-25	14	64	13	64	13	n/a	14	64
English	First Language	21	64	25	63	25	n/a	21	65
Enrolled as Freshman	Yes	23	64	25	63	25	n/a	23	65
Student Status	Full-time	24	63	25	63	25	n/a	24	64
Cumulative GPA	3.51 and above	10	65	10	65	10	n/a	10	66
Educational plans	Return to this school	21	64	19	63	19	n/a	21	64
Effort	Tried my Best	16	63	19	63	19	n/a	16	65