

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY

CAAP OUTCOMES

2011–2012

For the fifth 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 during the Fall 2010 semester. 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.

There are plans to administer to Freshmen again during the Fall 2012 semester in Freshman Orientation classes.

JUNIORS AND SENIORS

Eligible Southwestern Juniors and Seniors were asked to volunteer to complete both CAAP tests during the Spring 2012 semester. Forty-four two-hour testing time slots were offered to seniors scheduled during the two-week period of April 13, 2012 – May 3, 2012. Juniors and 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 60 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 763 Juniors & Seniors invited to participate, 66 (8.65%) actually contributed to this important project; 7% participated last year (28 Seniors). As a means of incentive and showing our appreciation for the contribution of students 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 2012 examinees were above the national average of other junior and senior examinees. On a scale of 40-80, Southwestern Juniors and Seniors received an average score of 65.56 (mean score of 65.15 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the juniors' and seniors' national averages of 61.8 and 62.9 respectively. On a scale of 1-6, SWOSU juniors and seniors received an average score of 3.39 (mean score of 3.41 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Writing Essay test; the Juniors' and Seniors' national average was 3.3.

Most of the students completing the exams for the most recent administration were White/Caucasian females, ages 21 – 25, and enrolled at Southwestern as Freshmen. Almost all held English as their first language, and all had full-time status as a Southwestern student. The majority plan to return to Southwestern. The major of most of the examinees was a Health Profession or Education. Most reported that they tried their best while testing. Half of the examinees placed in the highest GPA group of 3.51 – 4.00; 30% placed in the GPA group of 3.01 - 3.50; 15% in the GPA group of 2.51 – 3.00; and, 5% in the lowest GPA group of 2.00 – 2.50.

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 a bit 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 more than five points, and the Essay scores of our freshmen by 0.51 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 2012

TEST (SCALE)	Freshmen				Jrs / Srs		Juniors		Seniors	
	SWOSU		Nat. / 2010		SWOSU		Nat. / 2011		Nat. / 2011	
	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean
Critical Thinking (40-80)	207	59.90	11,670	61.00	177	65.15	9,367	61.80	18,501	62.90
Writing Essay (1-6)	236	2.90	6,622	3.00	171	3.41	5,897	3.30	13,518	3.30

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

Demographics		Critical Thinking			
		Fall '10 SWOSU Freshmen		Spring '12 SWOSU Jrs/Srs	
Category	Response	Freq.	Mean Score	Freq.	Mean Score
Ethnicity	African Am./Black	7	56	2	n/a
	Am. Ind./Alaskan	8	63	3	n/a
	Asian/Pacific Islander	5	58	0	
	Mex. Am./Chicano	14	57	0	
	White/Caucasian	150	60	33	67
Gender	Female	235	60	16	67
	Male	101	60	27	66
Age	18 and under	123	60	0	
	19-20	65	60	0	
	21-25	7	58	40	66
	26-30	0		1	n/a
	31-39	0		1	n/a
	40 and older	0		1	n/a
English	First Language	193	60	41	67
	Not First Language	6	57	2	n/a
Enrolled as Freshman Student	Yes	199	60	40	66
	No	0		3	n/a
Status	Full-time	198	60	43	66
Cumulative GPA	2.01 - 2.50	12	59	3	n/a
	2.51 - 3.00	18	57	6	66
	3.01 - 3.50	35	60	12	67
	3.51 and above	32	62	22	66
Educational plans	Return to this school	180	60	23	67
	Transfer to diff. sch.	19	60	0	
	Other	2	n/a	20	65
College Major	Biological Sciences	7	66	5	64
	Business	12	61	5	63
	Community Serv.	5	55	0	
	Education	21	59	12	66
	Engineering	7	60	1	n/a
	Fine & Applied Arts	8	63	1	n/a
	General Studies	0		1	n/a
	Health Professions	67	61	13	67
	Letters	0		1	n/a
	Physical Sciences	0		2	n/a
Social Sciences	11	58	1	n/a	
Effort	Tried my Best	112	61.5	30	67
	Gave Moderate Effort	51	59.2	6	66
	Gave Little Effort	9	58.7	1	n/a

