

**SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY**  
**CAAP OUTCOMES**  
**Spring 2013**

For the sixth 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**

Freshmen were asked to complete one of the two tests in a class period during the Fall 2012 semester. Seven hundred twenty-eight freshmen participated; 371 took the Critical Thinking test, and 357 took the Writing Essay. Tests were administered September 10, 2012 – September 21, 2012 by Southwestern's Assessment Center staff. Subsequently, scoring and reporting were completed by ACT/CAAP. The scores of our freshmen examinees were again slightly below the national average of other freshmen examinees. On a scale of 40-80, Southwestern freshmen received an average score of 60.24 on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the freshmen national average of 61.1. On a scale of 1-6, SWOSU freshmen received an average score of 2.91 on the Writing Essay test; the freshmen national average was 3.00.

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 2014 semester.

### **JUNIORS AND SENIORS**

Eligible Southwestern Juniors and Seniors were asked to volunteer to complete both CAAP tests during the Spring 2013 semester. Forty two-hour testing time slots were offered to juniors and seniors scheduled during the two-week period of April 18, 2013 – May 2, 2013. Students were informed of this opportunity through 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 709 Juniors & Seniors invited to participate, 36 (5.08%) actually contributed to this important project; 8.65% participated last year (28). 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 2013 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 66.00 (mean score of 65.29 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the juniors' and seniors' national averages of 61.6 and 62.8 respectively. On a scale of 1-6, SWOSU juniors and seniors received an average score of 3.40 (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 hold a GPA of 3.38 or higher; 25% have a GPA of 3.10 - 3.36; and, 25% are in the lowest GPA group of 2.57 – 3.09.

## **SUMMARY**

Freshmen as well as Juniors and Seniors compete 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 Juniors and 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 0.48 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 2013

TEST (SCALE)	Freshmen				Jrs / Srs		Juniors		Seniors	
	SWOSU		Nat. / 2012		SWOSU		Nat. / 2012		Nat. / 2012	
	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean
Critical Thinking (40-80)	578	60.13	11,913	61.10	177	65.15	9,286	61.60	19,870	62.80
Writing Essay (1-6)	593	2.92	9,439	3.00	171	3.41	5,920	3.30	13,226	3.30

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

Demographics		Critical Thinking			
		Fall '12 SWOSU Freshmen		Spring '13 SWOSU Jrs/Srs	
Category	Response	Freq.	Mean Score	Freq.	Mean Score
Ethnicity	African Am./Black	24	58	1	n/a
	Am. Ind./Alaskan	20	60	3	n/a
	Asian/Pacific Islander	10	61	3	n/a
	Mex. Am./Chicano	17	59	2	n/a
	Puerto R./Cuban/Hisp.	0		1	n/a
	White/Caucasian	254	61	25	68
Gender	Female	187	60	23	65
	Male	175	60	13	67
Age	18 and under	269	61	0	
	19-20	88	59	9	65
	21-25	0		23	67
	26-30	1	n/a	4	n/a
	31-39	1	n/a	0	
	40 and older	5	60	0	
English	First Language	351	60	35	66
	Not First Language	13	58	1	n/a
Enrolled as Freshman	Yes	356	60	34	67
	No	5	56	2	n/a
Student Status	Full-time	362	60	36	66
Cumulative GPA	2.01 - 2.50	11	56	2	n/a
	2.51 - 3.00	24	57	7	65
	3.01 - 3.50	40	57	14	66
	3.51 and above	68	63	13	67
Educational plans	Return to this school	346	60	31	66
	Transfer to diff. sch.	10	59	1	n/a
	Other	5	58	4	n/a
College Major	Biological Sciences	16	61	2	n/a
	Business	57	59	1	n/a
	Communications	0		1	n/a
	Community Serv.	7	59	0	
	Computer & Info. Sc.	0		1	n/a
	Education	15	58	5	62
	Engineering	14	62	2	n/a
	Fine & Applied Arts	21	61	0	
	Health Professions	155	61	20	66
	Letters	0		1	n/a
	Mathematics	0		1	n/a
	Physical Sciences	0		1	n/a
Social Sciences	14	61	1	n/a	
Effort	Tried my Best	176	62	30	67
	Gave Moderate Effort	143	59	6	66
	Gave Little Effort	29	58	1	n/a

**SOUTHWESTERN OK STATE UNIVERSITY**

**CAAP**

**Score Comparison**

**2012-2013**

<b>SWOSU FRESHMEN CUMULATIVE CAAP SCORES Fall 2010 &amp; Fall 2012</b>					
<b>CT</b>	<b>n=207</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	<b>n=236</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>73-80</b>	0	0.00%	<b>5.25-6.00</b>	0	0.00%
<b>72</b>	0	0.00%	<b>5.00</b>	0	0.00%
<b>71</b>	9	1.56%	<b>4.75</b>	1	0.17%
<b>70</b>	9	1.56%	<b>4.50</b>	2	0.34%
<b>69</b>	14	2.42%	<b>4.25</b>	3	0.51%
<b>68</b>	26	4.50%	<b>4.00</b>	35	5.91%
<b>67</b>	16	2.77%	<b>3.75</b>	23	3.89%
<b>66</b>	27	4.67%	<b>3.50</b>	49	8.28%
<b>65</b>	14	2.42%	<b>3.25</b>	45	7.60%
<b>64</b>	47	8.13%	<b>3.00</b>	208	35.14%
<b>63</b>	34	5.88%	<b>2.75</b>	47	7.94%
<b>62</b>	24	4.15%	<b>2.50</b>	92	15.54%
<b>61</b>	58	10.03%	<b>2.25</b>	33	5.57%
<b>60</b>	36	6.23%	<b>2.00</b>	46	7.77%
<b>59</b>	25	4.33%	<b>1.75</b>	3	0.51%
<b>58</b>	40	6.92%	<b>1.50</b>	5	0.84%
<b>57</b>	27	4.67%	<b>1.25</b>	0	0.00%
<b>56</b>	49	8.48%	<b>1.00</b>	0	0.00%
<b>55</b>	36	6.23%			
<b>54</b>	41	7.09%			
<b>53</b>	17	2.94%			
<b>52</b>	10	1.73%			
<b>51</b>	12	2.08%			
<b>50</b>	3	0.52%			
<b>49</b>	3	0.52%			
<b>48</b>	1	0.17%			
<b>40-47</b>	0	0.00%			
	578	100.00%		592	100.00%
<b>Mean Scores:</b>					
<b>60.13</b>	578		<b>2.92</b>	593	
<b>2012 NATIONAL Mean Scores of Freshmen:</b>					
<b>61.10</b>	11,913		<b>3.00</b>	9,439	

<b>SWOSU JUNIORS/SENIORS CUMULATIVE CAAP SCORES Fall 2007 - Spring 2013</b>					
<b>CT</b>	<b>n=213</b>	<b>%</b>	<b>ESSAY</b>	<b>n=205</b>	<b>%</b>
<b>73-80</b>	0	0.00%	<b>5.25-6.00</b>	0	0.00%
<b>72</b>	6	2.82%	<b>5.00</b>	1	0.49%
<b>71</b>	11	5.16%	<b>4.75</b>	1	0.49%
<b>70</b>	25	11.74%	<b>4.50</b>	5	2.44%
<b>69</b>	18	8.45%	<b>4.25</b>	4	1.95%
<b>68</b>	19	8.92%	<b>4.00</b>	46	22.44%
<b>67</b>	28	13.15%	<b>3.75</b>	17	8.29%
<b>66</b>	14	6.57%	<b>3.50</b>	34	16.59%
<b>65</b>	12	5.63%	<b>3.25</b>	23	11.22%
<b>64</b>	21	9.86%	<b>3.00</b>	57	27.80%
<b>63</b>	8	3.76%	<b>2.75</b>	5	2.44%
<b>62</b>	5	2.35%	<b>2.50</b>	7	3.41%
<b>61</b>	11	5.16%	<b>2.25</b>	2	0.98%
<b>60</b>	5	2.35%	<b>2.00</b>	2	0.98%
<b>59</b>	8	3.76%	<b>1.75</b>	0	0.00%
<b>58</b>	3	1.41%	<b>1.50</b>	1	0.49%
<b>57</b>	3	1.41%	<b>1.25</b>	0	0.00%
<b>56</b>	8	3.76%	<b>1.00</b>	0	0.00%
<b>55</b>	6	2.82%			
<b>54</b>	0	0.00%			
<b>53</b>	1	0.47%			
<b>52</b>	1	0.47%			
<b>51</b>	0	0.00%			
<b>50</b>	0	0.00%			
<b>49</b>	0	0.00%			
<b>48</b>	0	0.00%			
<b>40-47</b>	0	0.00%			
	213	100.00%		205	100.00%
<b>Mean Scores:</b>					
<b>65.29</b>	213		<b>3.43</b>	205	
<b>2012 NATIONAL Mean Scores of Juniors:</b>					
<b>61.60</b>	9,286		<b>3.30</b>	5,920	
<b>2012 NATIONAL Mean Scores of Seniors:</b>					
<b>62.80</b>	19,870		<b>3.30</b>	13,226	