

SOUTHWESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
CAAP OUTCOMES
Spring 2014

For the seventh 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; 187 were female and 175 were male. 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 2014 semester. Thirty-four two-hour testing time slots were offered to juniors and seniors scheduled during the two-week period of April 14, 2014 – April 25, 2014. Students were informed of this opportunity through e-mails. 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 701 Juniors & Seniors invited to participate, 32 (4.56%) actually contributed to this important project; 5.08% participated last year (36). 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 2014 examinees were again 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 65.8 (mean score of 65.4 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Critical Thinking objective test compared to the juniors' and seniors' national averages of 61.1 and 62.6 respectively. On a scale of 1-6, SWOSU juniors and seniors received an average score of 3.70 (mean score of 3.45 for juniors and seniors since 2007) on the Writing Essay test; the Juniors' and Seniors' national average was 3.3 and 3.4 respectively.

Most of the students completing the exams for the most recent administration were White/Caucasian; 20 females and 12 males. They were mostly ages 21 – 25, and enrolled at Southwestern as Freshmen. All but one held English as their first language, and all but one had full-time status as a Southwestern student. Twenty-five of the thirty-two (78.12%) plan to return to Southwestern. The major of most of the examinees was a Health Profession, but there were also quite a few from Business, Education, and Biological Science majors. Most reported that they tried their best while testing. Eighty-one percent of the examinees report that they hold a GPA of 3.01 or higher; the other 19% have a GPA between 2.01 and 3.00.

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 285 participating 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 0.55. 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 2014

TEST (SCALE)	Freshmen				Jrs / Srs		Juniors		Seniors	
	SWOSU		Nat. / 2012		SWOSU		Nat. / 2013		Nat. / 2013	
	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean	Freq.	Mean
Critical Thinking (40-80)	578	60.13	11,913	61.10	245	65.15	8,637	61.10	17,578	62.60
Writing Essay (1-6)	593	2.92	9,439	3.00	238	3.45	5,297	3.30	11,654	3.40

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

Demographics		Critical Thinking			
		Fall '12 SWOSU Freshmen		Spring '14 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	2	n/a
	Asian/Pacific Islander	10	61	2	n/a
	Mex. Am./Chicano	17	59	0	n/a
	Puerto R./Cuban/Hisp.	0		1	n/a
	White/Caucasian	254	61	23	66
Gender	Female	187	60	20	65
	Male	175	60	12	67
Age	18 and under	269	61	0	
	19-20	88	59	7	66
	21-25	0		21	66
	26-30	1	n/a	2	n/a
	31-39	1	n/a	1	n/a
	40 and older	5	60	1	n/a
English	First Language	351	60	31	66
	Not First Language	13	58	1	n/a
Enrolled as Freshman	Yes	356	60	29	66
	No	5	56	3	n/a
Student Status	Full-time	362	60	31	66
	Part-time			1	n/a
Cumulative GPA	2.01 - 2.50	11	56	3	n/a
	2.51 - 3.00	24	57	3	n/a
	3.01 - 3.50	40	57	13	65
	3.51 and above	68	63	13	67
Educational plans	Return to this school	346	60	25	65
	Transfer to diff. sch.	10	59	1	n/a
	Other	5	58	6	69
College Major	Biological Sciences	16	61	3	n/a
	Business	57	59	5	65
	Communications	0		1	n/a
	Community Serv.	7	59	0	
	Education	15	58	4	n/a
	Engineering	14	62	2	n/a
	Fine & Applied Arts	21	61	1	n/a
	Foreign Languages	0		1	n/a
	Health Professions	155	61	13	65
Social Sciences	14	61	2	n/a	
Effort	Tried my Best	176	62	25	67
	Gave Moderate Effort	143	59	4	n/a
	Gave Little Effort	29	58	1	n/a

SOUTHWESTERN OK STATE UNIVERSITY

CAAP Score Comparison

2013-2014

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

SWOSU JUNIORS/SENIORS					
CUMULATIVE CAAP SCORES					
Fall 2007 - Spring 2014					
CT	n=245	%	ESSAY	n=205	%
74-80	0	0.00%	5.25-6.00	0	0.00%
73	1	0.41%	5.00	1	0.49%
72	7	2.86%	4.75	1	0.49%
71	14	5.71%	4.50	5	2.44%
70	28	11.43%	4.25	4	1.95%
69	20	8.16%	4.00	46	22.44%
68	24	9.80%	3.75	17	8.29%
67	30	12.24%	3.50	34	16.59%
66	16	6.53%	3.25	23	11.22%
65	12	4.90%	3.00	57	27.80%
64	23	9.39%	2.75	5	2.44%
63	10	4.08%	2.50	7	3.41%
62	6	2.45%	2.25	2	0.98%
61	15	6.12%	2.00	2	0.98%
60	8	3.27%	1.75	0	0.00%
59	8	3.27%	1.50	1	0.49%
58	3	1.22%	1.25	0	0.00%
57	3	1.22%	1.00	0	0.00%
56	8	3.27%			
55	7	2.86%			
54	0	0.00%			
53	1	0.41%			
52	1	0.41%			
51	0	0.00%			
50	0	0.00%			
49	0	0.00%			
48	0	0.00%			
40-47	0	0.00%			
	245	100.00%		205	100.00%
Mean Scores:					
65.36	245		3.47	205	
2013 NAITONAL Mean Scores of Juniors:					
61.10	8,637		3.30	5,297	
2013 NAITONAL Mean Scores of Seniors:					
62.60	17,578		3.40	11,654	