Critical Thinking & Written Communication Abilities
CAAP results from Fall 2009 through Spring 2011
Reported to the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)
Available on the CollegePortrait at http://www.collegeportraits.org/

The Office of Academic Assessment was given assistance from Provost's Office and help from the English Department to measure student’s abilities in critical thinking, analytical reasoning and written communication using the CAAP critical thinking and writing essay modules. This testing is guided by our participation in the Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA).

The freshmen and senior samples were compared to evaluate expected learning gains specific to each outcome, while controlling for ACT/SAT.

The Sample:

• Freshmen were tested in September of the fall 2009 semester across multiple sections of ENG 101. This class is taken by all majors.
  
  o 555 freshmen took the Critical Thinking test,
  
  o 508 took the Written Essay

• Seniors were tested in capstone and upper-division courses across the campus in March of spring 2010 and spring 2011. A sample of seniors was obtained representing students from the various colleges at UNLV (Health Sciences, Business, Education, Engineering, Fine Arts, Hotel, Liberal Arts, Sciences and Urban Affairs).
  
  o 248 seniors took the Critical Thinking test,
  
  o 242 took the Written Essay

Increases on the written and critical thinking performance tasks were the same as what would be expected at an institution with students of similar academic ability.