

Critical Thinking & Written Communication Abilities - Entering Freshmen
CAAP results from Fall 2009
To be reported for the Voluntary System of Accountability

Summary to Date: Entering freshmen at UNLV are very close to the National average in terms of their critical thinking and written communication abilities.

The Office of Academic Assessment has been 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 Sample:

- Freshmen were tested in September of the fall 2009 semester across multiple sections of ENG 101. This class is taken by all majors.
 - A sample of just over 1,200 freshmen was obtained.
- Seniors were tested in capstone and upper-division courses across the campus in March of spring 2009.
 - A sample of 672 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).

The freshmen and senior samples will be compared to evaluate expected learning gains specific to each outcome. These results will arrive via a CAAP VSA report provided by the testing company (ACT) upon completion of the senior sample, which we will obtain in the summer of 2010.

To receive this VSA report, ACT or SAT scores must accompany each student in the sample. ACT and/or SAT scores have been sent for all freshmen, and this will also be done for seniors once their testing is complete.

The following results, obtained from the CAAP institutional summary report, provide the critical thinking and writing essay performance of the fall 2009 entering freshmen. Results indicate that entering freshmen at UNLV are very close to the National average in terms of their critical thinking and written communication abilities.

	Critical Thinking		Writing Essay	
	UNLV	Natl.*	UNLV	Natl.*
Mean	62.3	61.0	3.1	3.1
SD	4.3	5.5	0.5	0.7
N	593	9523	576	5358

*National comparison group is composed of all freshmen from 4-year public institutions who completed the CAAP module in the past three years.