

## Chapter X: FRESHMAN / JUNIOR TESTING

### **Freshman/Junior Testing**

Who takes it?

Entering freshman. The students then take an identical test two years later (after accumulating 60 credit hours). Half of the students take the CAAP test and the other half take the Academic Profile test.

When is it administered?

Freshmen take it during Freshman Week. Juniors take it at specially arranged times by the Assessment and Testing Office.

How long does it take for the student to complete the test?

3 hours for each test.

What office administers it?

The Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the tests?

Currently two tests are given: the CAAP (ACT) and the Academic Profile (ETS).

When are the results typically available?

For the individual student, results are available several months after the test is taken. University reports for the fiscal year are typically available in late June.

What type of information is sought?

Information about the liberal arts based general education curriculum.

The CAAP (Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency) from ACT provides measurement in five areas: science, mathematics, reading, writing, and critical thinking. Students randomly take tests in four of the five areas. When students take it a second time, they take tests in the same four areas to see whether improvement has been made (value added). The Academic Profile from the Educational Testing Service provides information in these areas: natural science, social science, mathematics, humanities, reading, writing, and critical thinking. All students who take the Academic Profile take the same tests both times.

CAAP: American College Testing Program

PO Box 168, Iowa City, IA

(319) 337-1053

Academic Profile: Higher Education Assessment, Educational Testing Service

Princeton, NJ 08541

(609) 951-6508

From whom are the results available?  
From the Assessment and Testing Office.

Are the results available by division or discipline?  
Discipline.

Distribution regularly made available to whom?  
Individual results are communicated to students and their advisors. University, division, and discipline averages are sent to the President, VPAA, Division Heads, Assessment Committee, and selected administrators.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?  
The CAAP is nationally normed. The Academic Profile provides norms only within the university (though this may be changed), but it does rate students within performance levels.

What follows are the CAAP and Academic Profile results:

(General editor's comments)

These results are rather discouraging. The CAAP results are down across all subject areas. The FY 1998 Academic Profile results show mainly small decreases (except for critical thinking).

The results could come from a number of factors:

1. We are hitting the ceiling effect—we already have bright students; therefore, they are not likely to show much gain on these tests.
2. Assuming the tests do measure important skills, then campus courses do not directly address skill development.
3. Juniors do not see the reasons to put much effort into it.

Motivation does seem to be a major factor based on anecdotal reports. See the later chapter on motivation.

**Freshman - Sophomore/Junior Testing**  
**Pre-Test/Post-Test Results, FY91-FY98**  
**CAAP Tests: Pre-test/Post-test Scale Scores and Percentiles**

	1990-91 FY91*	1991-92 FY92	1992-93 FY93	1993-94 FY94	1994-95 FY95	1995-96 FY96	1996-97 FY97	1997-98 FY98
<b>WRITING SKILLS</b>	N=389	N=237	N=145	N=18	N=155	N=533	N=498	N=460
Freshmen	67.36	67.11	66.29	66.50	67.05	66.76	67.24	66.73
Sophomores/Junior:	68.50	67.85	66.39	67.55	66.08	66.90	66.92	67.30
Change +/-	1.14	0.73	0.09	1.05	-0.96	0.13	-0.31	0.56
%positive/%negative/%at	62.5/19.8/17.7	56.1/28.7/15.2	44.8/38.6/16.6	77.8/22.2/0.0	45.2/42.6/12.2	49.9/32.6/17.4	47.4/37.3/15.3	60.9/26.1/13.0
Pre-Test %ile ***	86.1	84.6	73.0	74.5	76.3	74.1	72.9	61.5
Post-Test %ile ***	82.0	77.0	69.1	79.9	70.6	72.0	70.2	73.1

	N=342	N=369	N=523	N=172	N=563	N=593	N=477	N=436
<b>READING</b>								
Freshmen	65.26	64.70	64.76	64.16	63.90	64.31	64.57	64.41
Sophomores/Junior:	66.85	65.72	65.22	64.58	63.03	64.70	64.29	63.91
Change +/-	1.59	1.02	0.46	0.41	-0.87	0.38	-0.27	-0.50
%positive/%negative/%at	65.8/23.7/10.5	57.2/32.0/10.8	51.2/38.1/10.7	54.1/40.1/5.8	45.5/46.0/8.5	53.6/35.9/10.5	48.4/43.2/8.4	48.6/43.6/7.8
Pre-Test %ile ***	86.8	84.2	75.3	71.1	64.9	68.2	67.4	64.5
Post-Test %ile ***	75.1	68.9	70.1	67.1	58.2	65.6	62.0	59.3

	N=376	N=249	N=507	N=174	N=552	N=560	N=482	N=475
<b>MATHEMATICS</b>								
Freshmen	60.24	59.82	59.76	59.92	59.53	59.55	60.17	59.98
Sophomores/Junior:	61.82	61.27	60.61	59.99	59.53	60.10	59.87	59.90
Change +/-	1.58	1.45	0.84	0.06	0.00	0.54	-0.29	-0.08
%positive/%negative/%at	61.7/26.1/12.2	66.3/22.5/11.2	56.2/30.2/13.6	43.1/40.8/16.1	45.8/43.1/11.1	52.9/36.8/10.4	43.4/42.5/14.1	42.7/44.2/13.1
Pre-Test %ile ***	85.2	83.1	76.0	78.5	66.2	68.4	73.2	71.8
Post-Test %ile ***	83.3	81.1	78.5	73.9	73.2	76.6	76.0	76.3

	N=370	N=346	N=544	N=170	N=574	N=544	N=494	N=462
<b>CRITICAL THINKING</b>								
Freshmen	65.44	64.75	64.23	64.06	64.36	64.20	64.69	65.04
Sophomores/Junior:	66.21	66.19	65.57	64.32	63.67	65.30	64.42	63.87
Change +/-	0.77	1.44	1.34	0.26	-0.68	1.10	-0.26	-1.19
%positive/%negative/%at	54.1/35.4/10.5	63.6/26.3/10.1	61.4/29.0/9.6	55.9/39.4/4.7	49.5/42.3/8.2	59.0/29.4/11.6	53.4/37.0/9.5	43.3/48.7/8.0
Pre-Test %ile ***	82.2	79.0	70.4	69.4	66.5	66.2	67.1	67.3
Post-Test %ile ***	71.3	71.1	71.0	62.9	58.4	63.5	59.1	57.7

	n/a	N=309	N=542	N=172	N=580	N=522	N=465	N=460
<b>SCIENCE REASONING</b>								
Freshmen		61.88	61.50	61.16	61.51	61.89	62.19	61.80
Sophomores/Junior:	63.49	63.73	62.99	62.12	60.50	61.98	61.60	61.61
Change +/-		1.85	1.48	0.95	-1.01	0.08	-0.59	-0.18
%positive/%negative/%unchanged		68.0/20.1/12.0	62.2/26.0/11.8	58.1/33.1/8.7	41.4/47.8/10.9	50.4/40.2/9.4	48.8/41.5/9.7	49.3/38.9/11.7
Pre-Test %ile ***	n/a	60.40	61.00	58.96	41.06	68.45	66.71	61.40
Post-Test %ile ***	63.45	64.65	51.95	59.08	51.50	63.88	62.60	62.27

Note: In each column, data reflect scores of students who, during that year, completed the "Sophomore"/"Junior" retest. The "Freshman" score in that column is the matched pretest mean, reflecting scores earned by these same students whenever they first entered. The table is therefore a longitudinal summary by cohort, not a comparison of the Freshman vs. Sophomore/Junior scores within a given year.

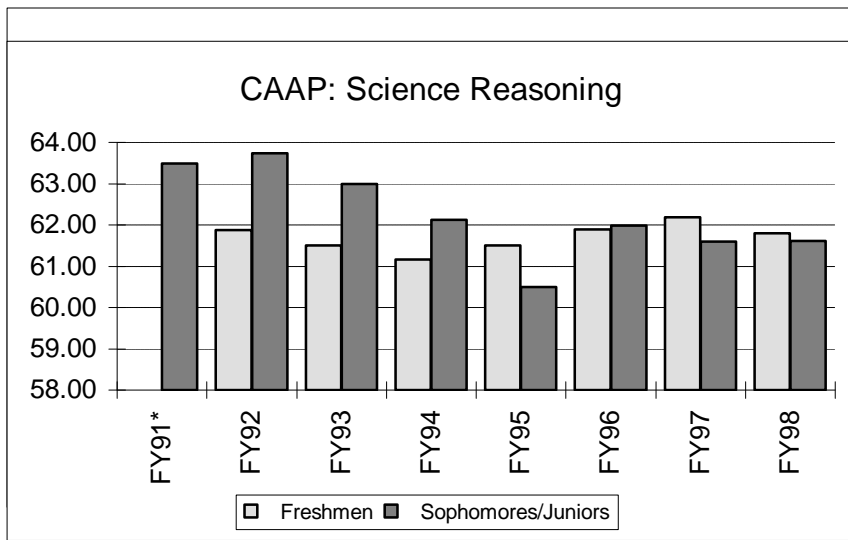
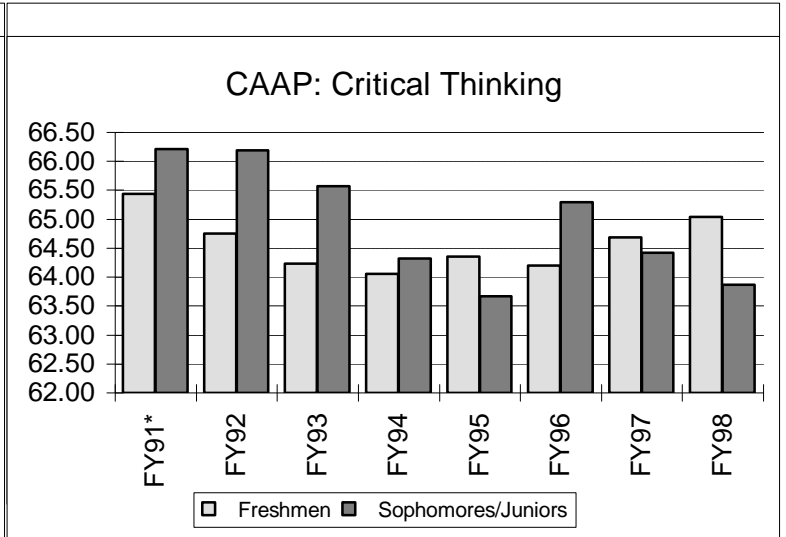
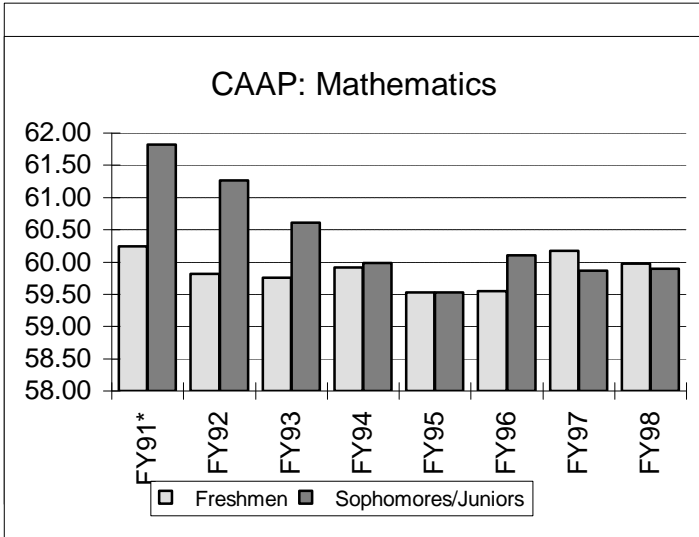
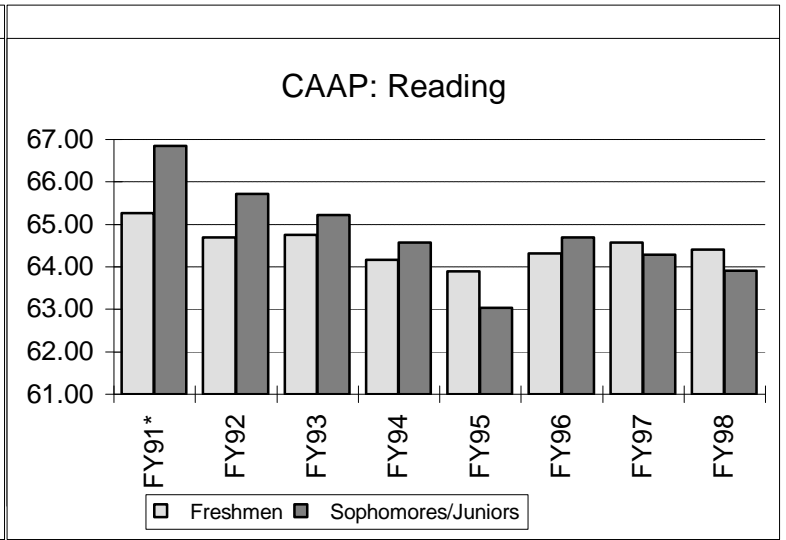
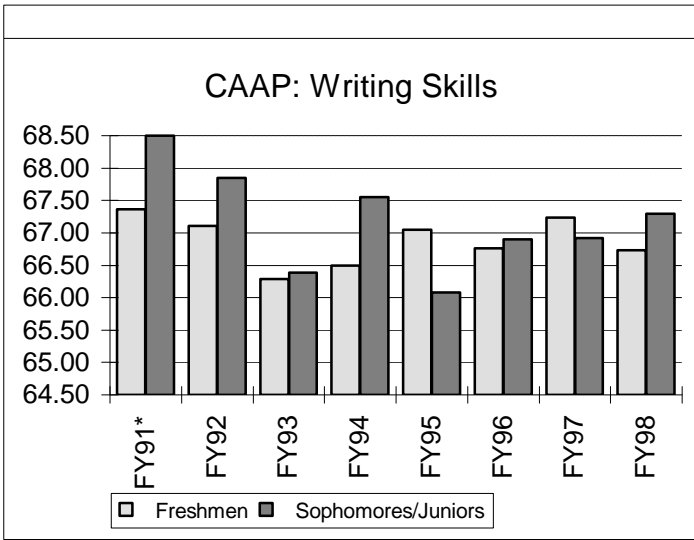
\* CAAP tests were first introduced in 1989; for FY89 and FY90, there are therefore no corresponding Freshman tests for comparison.

\*\* Beginning in Fall 1993 (FY94), Sophomore/Junior testing follows the completion of 60 CH of coursework (vs. 45 CH in previous years).

\*\*\* The Science Reasoning module was introduced a year later than the other four modules.

\*\*\*\* Percentiles are estimated for the pre-test (freshman) using the closest fall user norms, i.e. a student who took the post-test in fall of 1997 more than likely took their pre-test in the fall of 1995, thus 1995 user norms were used.

\*\*\*\*\* Percentiles are estimated for the post-test (sophomore/junior test) using the closest fall user norms, i.e. for a student who took the post test in fall of 1997 or spring of 1998, the fall 1997 user norms were used.



\* CAAP tests were first introduced in 1989; for FY89 and FY90, there are therefore no corresponding Freshman tests for comparison.

\*\* Beginning in Fall 1993 (FY94), Sophomore/Junior testing follows the completion of 60 CH of coursework (vs. 45 CH in previous years).

\*\*\* The Science Reasoning module was introduced a year later than the other four modules.

**Freshman - Junior Testing**  
**Pre-Test/Post-Test Results, FY96-FY98**  
**Academic Profile**

	1995-96 FY96	1996-97 FY97	1997-98 FY98
<b>Humanities</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	121.09	118.78	118.57
Juniors	123.25	118.96	118.37
Change +/-	2.15	0.18	-0.20
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	68.1/16.7/15.3	50.0/42.3/7.7	50.3/39.0/10.8
<b>Social Science</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	119.70	116.31	116.87
Juniors	121.98	116.87	116.77
Change +/-	2.27	0.55	-0.09
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	69.4/19.4/11.1	53.8/38.5/7.7	50.1/41.6/8.3
<b>Natural Science</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	121.7	118.89	118.89
Juniors	123.18	118.71	118.87
Change +/-	1.48	-0.18	-0.02
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	61.1/25.0/13.9	51.1/37.9/11.0	52.3/39.3/8.3
<b>Reading</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	124.19	121.45	121.40
Juniors	126.1	120.91	120.54
Change +/-	1.9	-0.53	-0.85
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	68.1/23.6/8.3	48.4/44.0/7.7	48.1/41.9/10.0
<b>Writing</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	120.87	118.26	118.48
Juniors	121.97	118.03	118.37
Change +/-	1.09	-0.23	-0.11
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	56.9/29.2/13.9	50.5/42.9/6.6	52.1/39.0/8.9
<b>Critical Thinking</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	117.36	114.23	114.43
Juniors	120.23	115.56	115.05
Change +/-	2.87	1.33	0.61
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	69.4/25.0/5.6	56.6/32.4/11.0	56.0/36.9/7.1
<b>Mathematics</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	120.68	118.15	118.70
Juniors	122.16	118.49	118.44
Change +/-	1.48	0.33	-0.26
%positive/%negative/%unchanged	65.3/26.4/8.3	55.5/36.8/7.7	47.9/40.8/11.3
<b>Total</b>	N=72	N=182	N=539
Freshmen	467.20	457.28	458.10
Juniors	473.84	458.17	457.58