

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.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?
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 for the total score as well as norms within the university, and it rates students within performance levels.

What follows are the CAAP and Academic Profile results:

Comments:

These results are rather discouraging. The CAAP results are down across almost all subject areas. The FY 1999 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.

Freshman - Junior Testing
Pre-Test/Post-Test Results, FY96-FY99
Academic Profile

| | 1995-96 FY96 | 1996-97 FY97 | 1997-98 FY98 | 1998-99 FY99 |
|--------------------------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|-----------------|
| Humanities | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 121.09 | 118.78 | 118.57 | 119.02 |
| Juniors | 123.25 | 118.96 | 118.37 | 118.56 |
| Change +/- | 2.15 | 0.18 | -0.20 | -0.45 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 68.1/16.7/15.3 | 50.0/42.3/7.7 | 50.3/39.0/10.8 | 48.9/45.2/59.1 |
| Social Science | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 119.70 | 116.31 | 116.87 | 116.92 |
| Juniors | 121.98 | 116.87 | 116.77 | 116.81 |
| Change +/- | 2.27 | 0.55 | -0.09 | -0.10 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 69.4/19.4/11.1 | 53.8/38.5/7.7 | 50.1/41.6/8.3 | 52.2/40.9/7.0 |
| Natural Science | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 121.7 | 118.89 | 118.89 | 119.53 |
| Juniors | 123.18 | 118.71 | 118.87 | 118.90 |
| Change +/- | 1.48 | -0.18 | -0.02 | -0.62 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 61.1/25.0/13.9 | 51.1/37.9/11.0 | 52.3/39.3/8.3 | 50.9/41.2/7.9 |
| Reading | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 124.19 | 121.45 | 121.40 | 122.07 |
| Juniors | 126.1 | 120.91 | 120.54 | 120.62 |
| Change +/- | 1.9 | -0.53 | -0.85 | -1.45 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 68.1/23.6/8.3 | 48.4/44.0/7.7 | 48.1/41.9/10.0 | 45.5/44.1/10.4 |
| Writing | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 120.87 | 118.26 | 118.48 | 118.46 |
| Juniors | 121.97 | 118.03 | 118.37 | 118.23 |
| Change +/- | 1.09 | -0.23 | -0.11 | -0.22 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 56.9/29.2/13.9 | 50.5/42.9/6.6 | 52.1/39.0/8.9 | 50.5/38.9/10.6 |
| Critical Thinking | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 117.36 | 114.23 | 114.43 | 114.91 |
| Juniors | 120.23 | 115.56 | 115.05 | 115.39 |
| Change +/- | 2.87 | 1.33 | 0.61 | 0.48 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 69.4/25.0/5.6 | 56.6/32.4/11.0 | 56.0/36.9/7.1 | 55.0/38.4/6.6 |
| Mathematics | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
| Freshmen | 120.68 | 118.15 | 118.70 | 119.10 |
| Juniors | 122.16 | 118.49 | 118.44 | 118.37 |
| Change +/- | 1.48 | 0.33 | -0.26 | -0.72 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 65.3/26.4/8.3 | 55.5/36.8/7.7 | 47.9/40.8/11.3 | 48.7/40.7/10.6 |

| Total | N=72 | N=182 | N=539 | N=558 |
|--------------------------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|---------------|
| Freshmen | 467.20 | 457.28 | 458.10 | 459.47 |
| Juniors | 473.84 | 458.17 | 457.58 | 457.76 |
| Change +/- | 6.63 | 0.89 | -0.51 | -1.71 |
| %positive/%negative/%unchanged | 80.6/16.7/2.8 | 61.5/36.3/2.2 | 58.3/38.4/3.3 | 55.2/41.6/3.2 |

Note: Beginning in Fall 1994, the Academic Profile replaced the COMP as a junior test.

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