

Chapter 3: COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT

Who takes it?

A sample of approximately 100 first-year and senior students took the test last year. First year students were selected randomly while Senior students took CLA as one of their graduating tests.

When is it administered?

Fall semester for First-year and Spring semester for both First-year and senior students.

What office administers it?

The Assessment and Testing Office in coordination with The Council for Aid to Education (CAE)

What type of information is sought?

Performance Task requires students to response to a real-world situation by addressing the issue, propose a solution or a course of action to resolve the conflict

Selected-Response Questions include 25 questions to evaluate student's scientific and quantitative reasoning; critical reading and evaluation as well as call for students to critique arguments by identifying logical flaws and questionable assumptions.

For more information with regard to the Assessment, visit CAE website at:
<http://www.cae.org/>

From whom are the results available?

The Council for Aid to Education provides institutional reports biannually.

To whom are the results regularly distributed?

Provost/Vice President for Academic Affairs, Assessment Committee, and the campus community through this almanac...

Are the results comparable to data of other institutions?

Yes – comparisons are included in this report.

Purpose of CLA in Truman:

To estimate the value-added knowledge provided to students by Truman as well as the current performing level of the entering and graduating students.

The Collegiate Learning Assessment

The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) measures critical thinking, problem solving, analytical reasoning, and writing skills through a performance-based assessment. The measure uses ACT scores as the estimate of incoming ability and gauges process in thinking against entry level. The CLA+ also offers comparisons across participating institutions.

Truman Summary of Results:

First-year students at Truman had a Total CLA+ score of 1140; this score is greater than or equal to the average First-year score at 89% of CLA+ schools. By CLA standards, a score of 1140 demonstrates “Proficient Mastery” of the critical-thinking and written-communication skills measured by CLA+.

Truman State University's senior Total CLA+ score is 1226, which is better than or equal to the average senior score at 92% of CLA+ schools. A score of 1226 signifies “Accomplished” mastery of the skills measured by CLA+.

Given the mean CLA+ performance of Truman State University's freshmen and the entering academic ability of its seniors Truman State University's value added is classified as Near what would be expected relative to schools testing similar populations of students.

Table1: Performance for Truman First-Year Students.

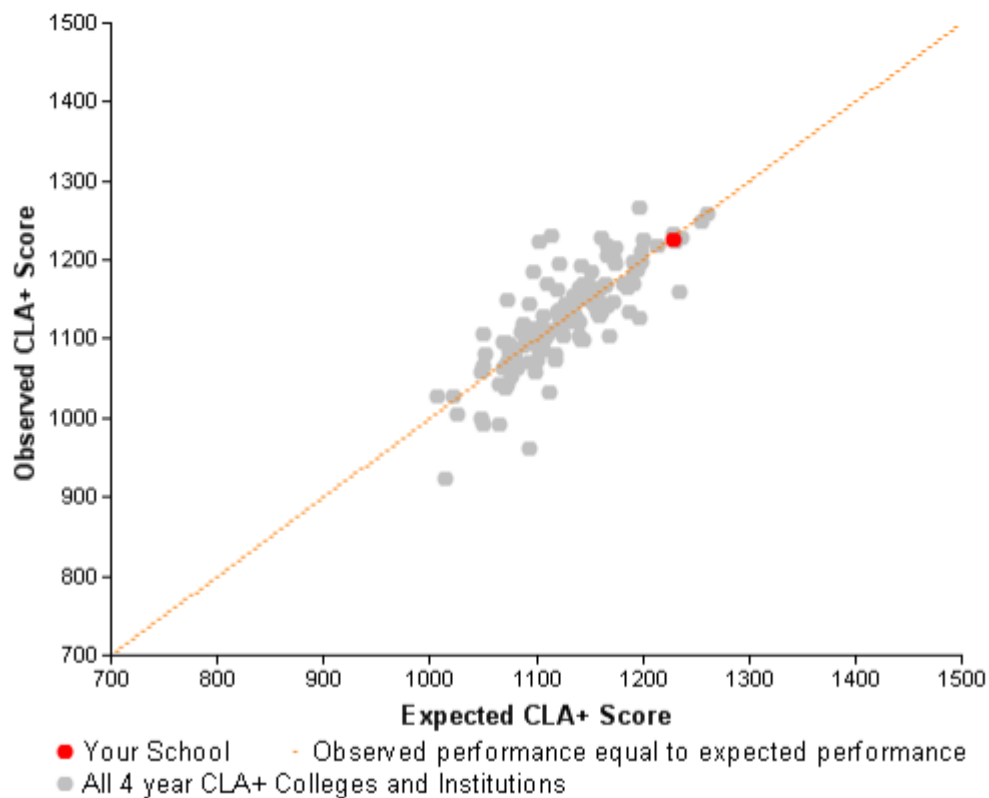
	Number of First-year	Mean Score	Mean Score Percentile Rank	25 Percentile Score	75 Percentile Score
Total CLA+ Score	112	1140	89	1070	1208
Performance Task	112	1097	76	1014	1168
Selected- Response Questions	112	1182	96	1058	1319
EAA	112	1183	93	1070	1300

Table 2: Performance for Truman Senior Students.

	Number of First-year	Mean Score	Mean Score Percentile Rank	25 Percentile Score	75 Percentile Score
Total CLA+ Score	114	1226	92	1173	1292
Performance Task	114	1182	80	1089	1281
Selected- Response Questions	114	1269	97	1182	1370
EAA	114	1248	97	1190	1340

Truman's performance on the CLA and CLA+ has been slowly but steadily improving over the past few years – which can be seen from the improvement in ranking percentile as well as the following graphs included for the period 2010-2015. However, performance is still slightly below what CLA+ predicts based on incoming ACT scores at a very insignificant level (expected score of 1228 versus actual score of 1226).

Expected vs. Observed CLA+ Scores

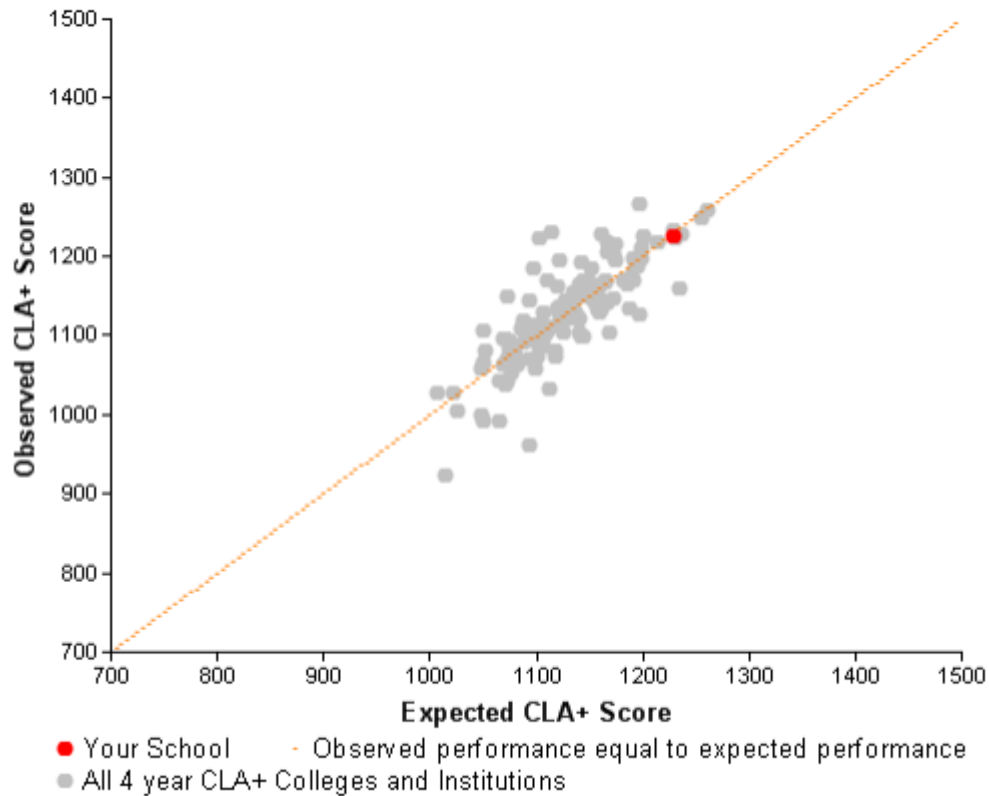


A five-year comparison of Truman's CLA and CLA+ scores with those of other institutions

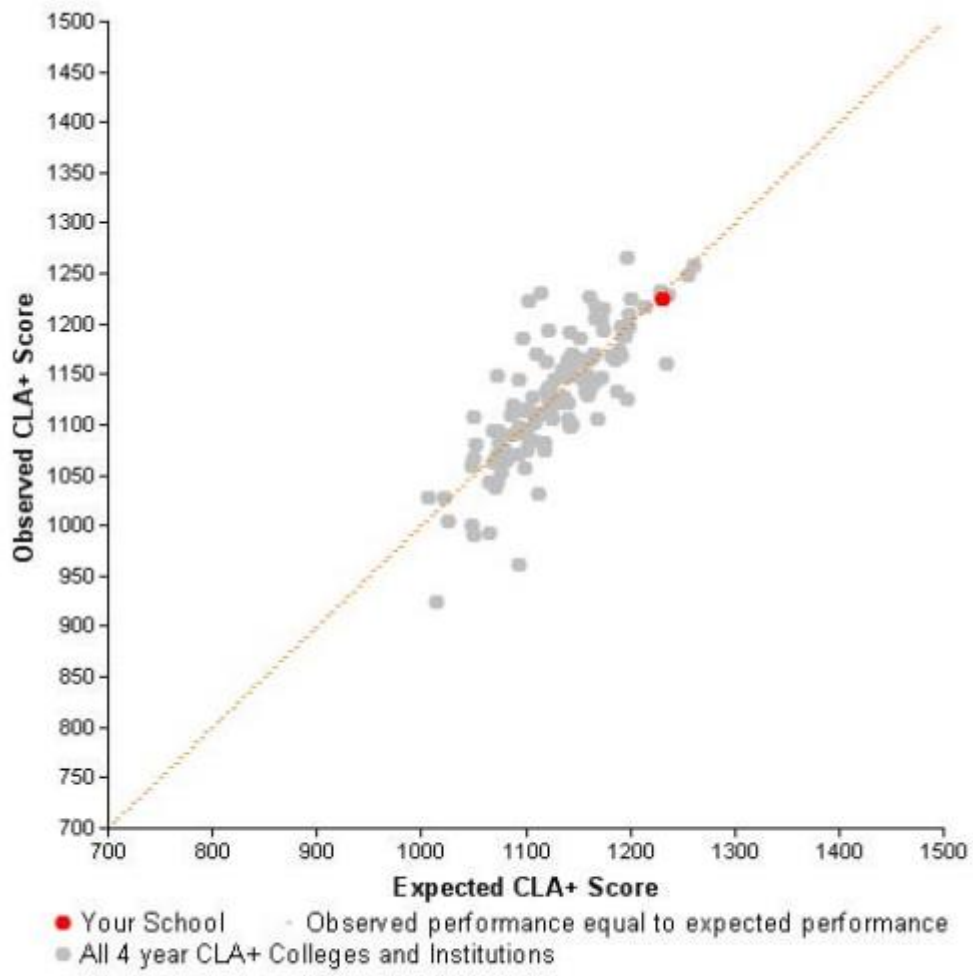
For each year, Truman remains as one of the top performers for CLA and CLA+ scores across other institutions taking the same assessment. However, the observed scores were most often below what were expected based on entering ACT. It is also notable that Truman consistently performs better in Selected-Response Questions over the years and across both level. This information is charted in the following graphs.

2014-2015

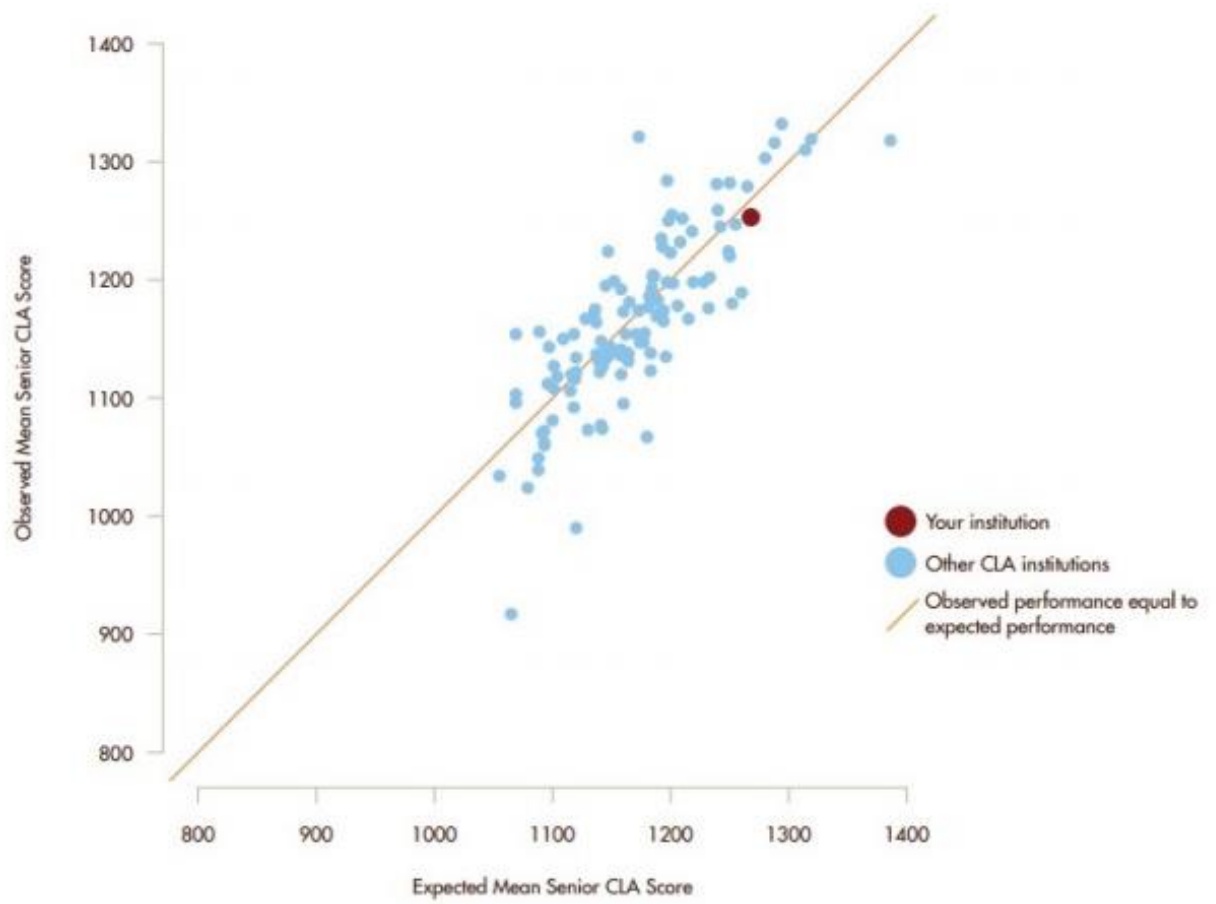
Expected vs. Observed CLA+ Scores



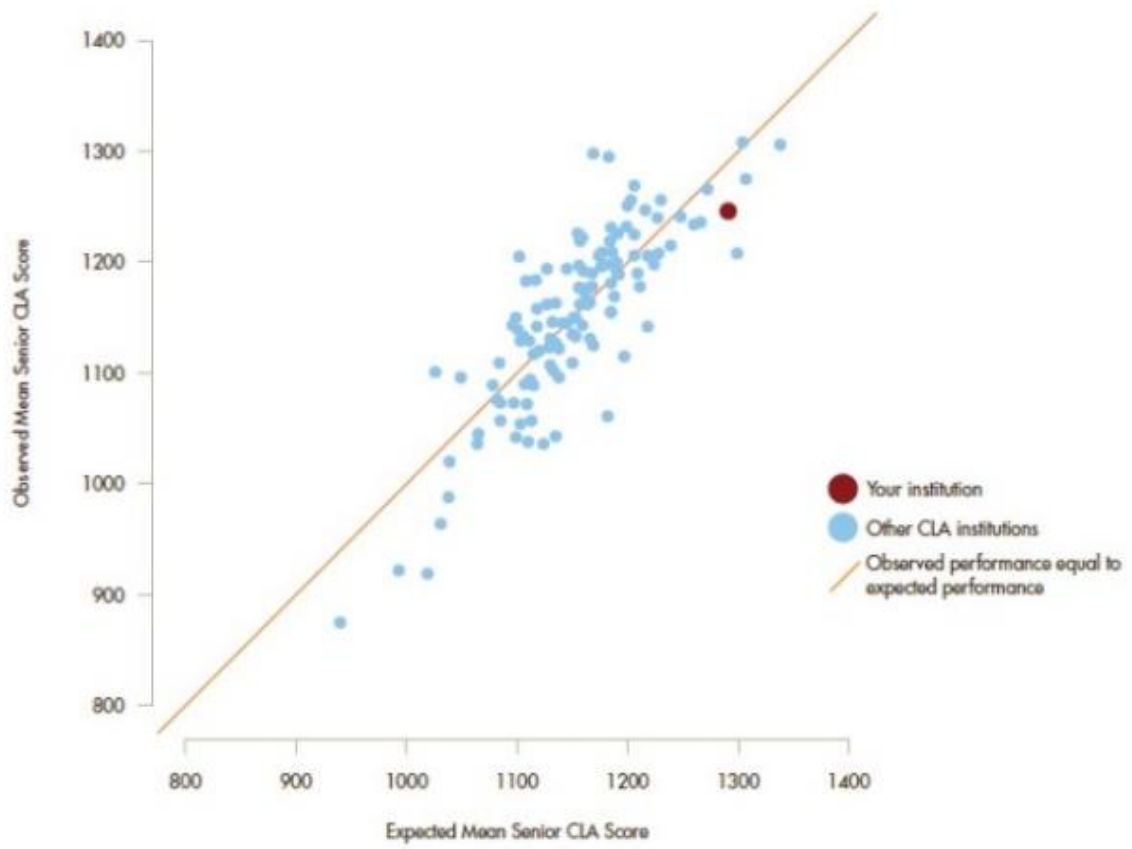
2013-2014



2012-2013



2011-2012



2010-2011

