

Chapter 9: Multi-State Collaborative Initiative

Description of the Project:

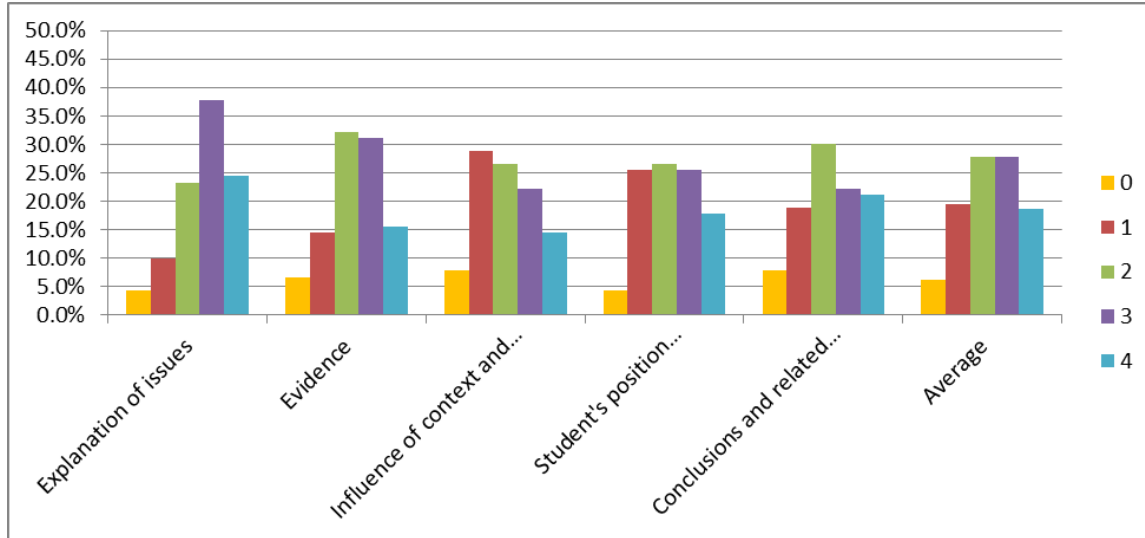
In spring 2015, Truman participated in the Multi-State Collaborative Initiative to Advance Learning Outcomes Assessment (MSC). MSC is a joint project by the State Higher Education Executive Officers Association (SHEEO) and the Association of American Colleges and Universities (AAC&U). Nine states participated in the pilot year: Connecticut, Indiana, Kentucky, Massachusetts, Minnesota, Missouri, Oregon, Rhode Island, and Utah. Much more information about the project is available at <http://www.sheeo.org/projects/msc-multi-state-collaborative-advance-learning-outcomes-assessment#What>.

The project is similar in many ways to the Truman Portfolio. Student artifacts are scored by faculty who have been trained on specific rubrics. This kind of direct assessment allows for a richer understanding of student achievement than is possible with only surveys and standardized tests. For the pilot year, MSC included three prompts for student work: Critical Thinking, Written Communication, and Quantitative Literacy. AAC&U VALUE rubrics were used to evaluate the work. In total, 53 institutions participated by uploading artifacts. Over seven thousand artifacts from over one thousand assignments were scored.

On all three rubrics, artifacts from Truman students scored well. Each rubric was scored on a 0 to 4 scale, with 1 representing “Benchmark” work, and 4 representing “Capstone” work. Compared to artifacts from all institutions combined, artifacts from Truman were more likely to receive scores of 3 or 4 and less likely to receive scores of 1 or 2. Because Truman is a highly selective institution, it’s not surprising that students would select better work. However, Truman pulled artifacts from the existing portfolio. That means that works were selected by students, and were not tied to assignments that had been crafted to meet the rubric. Truman students had good work despite this disadvantage.

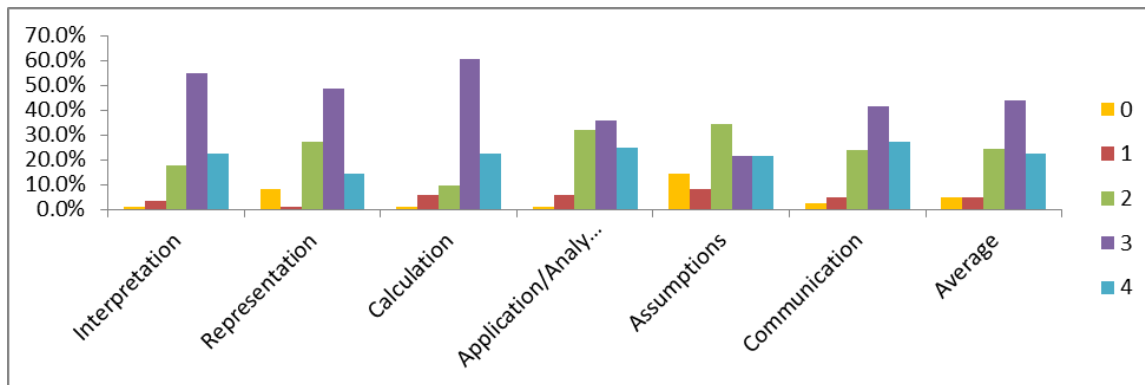
Critical Thinking

Truman's data for Critical Thinking shows consistent performance around score of 2 and 3. This suggests that Truman's students are performing at an average level. However, the percentage for average score 0 is above 5% - higher than significant level of most statistic standard.



Quantitative Literacy

Truman's performance in Quantitative Literacy is the highest among the three categories. The average scores for score of 3 and 4 are 43.8% and 22.2% respectively. This might suggest that Truman's students are generally better with number and data manipulations. However, it is also notable that there is a significant percentage of Truman students (14.3% scored 0 in assumption) who fail to draw conclusions and make assumptions from the given data.



Written Communication

Truman’s performance in written communication is also pleasing with average scores for 3 and 4 are 37.6% and 25.1% respectively. Also, this is the area in which Truman has the highest perfect average score out of the three categories. Yet this is the area with the highest disparity. The percentage of students scoring a 0 is 3.6% while it is 25.1% for students scoring a 4.

