

Chapter 4: Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+)

Who takes it?

A sample of 100-125 freshman and seniors take the CLA+ each year. While the freshman students are randomly selected, seniors take the CLA+ as their senior test. The disciplines that require the CLA+ as their senior test include: Communication Disorders, Creative Writing, English, Interdisciplinary Studies, Linguistics, Russian, Statistics, and Theatre.

When is it administered?

The CLA+ is taken by freshman students in the Fall and by senior students in the Spring.

What office administers it?

It is administered by the Assessment and Testing Office.

Who originates the exam?

The Council for Aid to Education.

When are the results normally available?

Freshman results are available in the spring and senior results in the early fall.

What type of information is sought?

The CLA+ is divided into two sections: a Performance Task and a series of Selected-Response questions. The Performance Task is an open-ended prompt that requires a written response. The Selected-Response questions require students to choose the best response based on the provided document library. The CLA+ tasks assess critical thinking and written communication skills. These skills include scientific and quantitative reasoning, analytic reasoning and evaluation of information, problem solving, writing effectiveness, and writing mechanics.

From whom are the results available?

The Council for Aid to Education provides an institutional report that is included in this report. CAE emails individual results to the students.

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 available by department or discipline?

No.

Are the results comparable to data of other universities?

Yes.

Collegiate Learning Assessment Plus

The objective of the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) is to measure students' critical thinking and written communication skills regardless of their academic majors. This assessment also demonstrates how an institution is contributing to the development of its students' critical thinking and written communication skills. The CLA+ no longer uses ACT scores as the estimate of incoming ability in comparison to the test scores. Instead, observed senior scores meet expectations established by two factors: the level of education attained by the parents of the students and the mean CLA+ performance of the freshmen at Truman.

Truman Summary of Results

First-year students at Truman had a Total CLA+ score of 1174; this score is better than approximately 94% of CLA+ schools. By CLA+ standards, this score is labeled "Proficient". For Truman seniors, the Total CLA+ score is 1194, which is better than 83% of CLA+ schools. By CLA+ standards, the corresponding Mastery Level for this score is "Proficient".

SUMMARY RESULTS, BY CLASS

Number of Students Tested, by Class

Freshmen: 120 Sophomores: N/A Juniors: N/A Seniors: 143

Summary CLA+ Results, by Class

		MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	25TH PERCENTILE	75TH PERCENTILE	MEAN SCORE PERCENTILE	EFFECT SIZE V. FRESHMEN
TOTAL CLA+ SCORE	Freshmen	1174	126	1103	1270	94	□□
	Sophomore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Juniors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Seniors	1194	105	1129	1274	83	0.16
PERFORMANCE TASK	Freshmen	1132	135	1042	1232	85	□□
	Sophomore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Juniors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Seniors	1130	146	1038	1232	60	-0.01
SELECTED RESPONSE QUESTIONS	Freshmen	1216	173	1094	1332	98	□□
	Sophomore	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Juniors	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Seniors	1258	137	1175	1361	95	0.24

Truman State University has a senior Total CLA+ score of 1194 and percentile rank of 83. The corresponding Mastery Level for this score is *Proficient*.

SELECTED-RESPONSE RESULTS, BY CLASS

The selected-response questions are further analyzed by scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical reading and evaluation, and the ability to critique an argument.

Selected-Response Questions: Mean Subscores

	SCIENTIFIC & QUANTITATIVE REASONING			CRITICAL READING & EVALUATION			CRITIQUE AN ARGUMENT		
	Mean Score	25 th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score	Mean Score	25 th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score	Mean Score	25 th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score
FRESHMEN	570	507	633	569	516	643	592	522	691
SOPHOMORES	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
JUNIORS	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
SENIORS	574	501	645	599	548	643	617	544	667

NOTE: The selected-response section subscores are reported on a scale ranging approximately from 200 to 800.

Comparative Summary of Results

The following graph can be used to understand how Truman's results (above) compare to other institutions participating in the CLA+. There are 169 institutions that report Freshman scores, 155 institutions report senior scores, and 141 institutions report both Freshman and Senior scores. The mean Freshman score across all institutions is 1032, and the mean Senior score across all institutions is 1128.

Summary CLA+ Results Across Institutions, by Class

		MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	25TH PERCENTILE	75TH PERCENTILE	EFFECT SIZE V. FRESHMEN
TOTAL CLA+ SCORE	Freshmen	1032	86	974	1096	--
	Seniors	1128	70	1090	1170	0.62
PERFORMANCE TASK	Freshmen	1028	93	967	1089	□□
	Seniors	1117	75	1072	1168	0.47
SELECTED RESPONSE QUESTIONS	Freshmen	1036	83	974	1089	□□
	Seniors	1140	72	1098	1186	0.55
ENTERING ACADEMIC ABILITY	Freshmen	1022	114	948	1106	□□
	Seniors	1058	96	993	1129	--