

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 1124; this score is greater than or equal to approximately 82% of CLA+ schools. By CLA+ standards, this score is labeled "Proficient". For Truman seniors, the Total CLA+ score is 1178, which is greater than or equal to 79% 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: 135

Sophomores: N/A

Juniors: N/A

Seniors: 174

Summary CLA+ Results, by Class

		MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	25TH PERCENTILE	75TH PERCENTILE	MEAN SCORE PERCENTILE	EFFECT SIZE V. FRESHMEN
TOTAL CLA+ SCORE	Freshmen	1124	125	1046	1210	82	--
	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	1178	123	1107	1264	79	0.43
PERFORMANCE TASK	Freshmen	1075	147	976	1164	65	--
	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	1128	161	1044	1232	59	0.36
SELECTED RESPONSE QUESTIONS	Freshmen	1173	155	1068	1283	93	--
	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	1228	151	1140	1331	90	0.35

Truman State University has a senior Total CLA+ score of 1178 and percentile rank of 79. 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	575	501	639	540	474	596	552	514	598
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	592	530	650	570	525	616	574	518	648

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

Comparative Summary of Results

The following graphs can be used to understand how Truman's results (above) compare to other institutions participating in the CLA+. There are 256 institutions that report Freshman scores, 257 institutions that report senior scores, and 141 institutions report both Freshman and Senior scores. The mean Freshman score across all institutions is 1056, and the mean Senior score across all institutions is 1110.

Summary CLA+ Results Across Institutions, by Class

		MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	25TH PERCENTILE	75TH PERCENTILE	EFFECT SIZE V. FRESHMEN
TOTAL CLA+ SCORE	Freshmen	1056	149	950	1163	--
	Seniors	1110	148	1009	1217	0.36
PERFORMANCE TASK	Freshmen	1049	170	933	1165	--
	Seniors	1102	171	998	1224	0.31
SELECTED RESPONSE QUESTIONS	Freshmen	1059	186	922	1196	--
	Seniors	1113	183	985	1250	0.29

Selected-Response Questions: Mean Subscores Across Institutions

	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	508	438	593	507	429	574	510	429	591
SENIORS	533	457	613	530	466	607	529	454	600