

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 1137; this score is greater than or equal to approximately 86% of CLA+ schools. By CLA+ standards, this score is labeled "Proficient". For Truman seniors, the Total CLA+ score is 1214, which is greater than or equal to 88% 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: 105

Sophomores: N/A

Juniors: N/A

Seniors: 178

Summary CLA+ Results, by Class

		MEAN SCORE	STANDARD DEVIATION	25TH PERCENTILE	75TH PERCENTILE	MEAN SCORE PERCENTILE	EFFECT SIZE V. FRESHMEN
TOTAL CLA+ SCORE	Freshmen	1137	130	1034	1252	86	--
	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	1214	100	1148	1289	88	0.59
PERFORMANCE TASK	Freshmen	1080	141	976	1189	66	--
	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	1168	136	1089	1270	76	0.62
SELECTED RESPONSE QUESTIONS	Freshmen	1194	178	1074	1333	95	--
	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	1259	119	1190	1347	94	0.36

Truman State University has a senior mean CLA+ Total Score of 1214 and percentile rank of 88. 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	577	513	650	554	508	616	565	518	650
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	609	549	659	575	557	616	596	572	660

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