Making the VSA and the *College Portrait* Work for You
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### The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)
- Developed in 2007 for public 4-year institutions
- Purpose is to supply comparable information on the Undergraduate Experience
- Sponsored by: ASSOCIATION OF PUBLIC AND LAND-GRANT UNIVERSITIES & AASCU

### Common web report: College Portrait
- Sponsored by AASCU & A+P+L+U

### Requirements for College Portrait
- Student Learning Outcomes Component
- Must report on two learning outcomes
  - Critical Thinking/Analytic Reasoning
  - Written Communication
- Must test First-Year and Senior Students
  - Seniors must be "natural" seniors & within 6-months of graduation
- Must choose one of three identified standardized tests
  - Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)
  - Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)
  - ETS Proficiency Profile (formerly MAPP)

### Kansas State University Facts
- Kansas State University (K-State) is the land-grant institution for the state of Kansas. It was the first land-grant institution created under the Morril Act (1873)
- Enrollment:
  - Undergraduate: 18,778
  - Graduate: 3,627
  - Total: 22,381
- Enrollment Demographics:
  - 79.7% White
  - 3.8% African American
  - 2.0% Hispanic
  - 1.6% Mexican American
  - 1.6% Asian/Haw. Pacific
  - 0.6% American Indian
  - 1.1% Multi-Racial
  - 7.3% Non-Resident
  - 2.4% Not Specified/Unknown

### K-State is a Research University (very high research activity (Carnegie Classification))
- Degrees Conferred (fy09)
  - Bachelors: 3,430
  - Masters: 868
  - Doctoral: 147
- Faculty
  - 973 full-time faculty with 50% or more instructional duties
- Retention:
  - 79% of first-time students in Fall 08 returning for Fall 09
- 9 Colleges
  - 2 satellite campuses
  - Common Data Set: Fall 2009

### Experiences with CAAP
- Advantages:
  - Captive audience
  - No out-of-class time required
  - Tied to 2 of 5 University UG Student Learning Outcomes
    - Communication (Modules: Reading & Writing Essay)
    - Critical Thinking (Module: Critical Thinking)
  - Allows for additional analysis of results
  - Match student's score with student data
- Challenges:
  - Meeting VSA requirements for seniors:
    - "Natural" Seniors
    - Within 6 months of graduation
    - Representative sample of students across university
  - Motivating students to perform at high levels
  - Paper vs. online format?

### Selection of Standardized Test
- Stakeholders Involved:
  - Office of Assessment
  - Faculty Senate
  - Committee on Academic Policy & Procedures
  - General Education Task Force Members
- Factors Critical to Decision:
  - Cost
  - Need for Incentives
  - Paper vs. On-line
  - Test format
  - Administration
  - Necessary Sample Size
  - How to use Results

### Administration of CAAP
- Modules:
  - Critical Thinking
  - Writing Essay
  - Reading
- Recruitment:
  - 2009-2010
  - 2008-2009
  - Number of Students:
    - 650 700 750 800
- Test Administration:
  - First-Year Students: First-Year Seminars, University Experience & Introduction to Honors
  - Senior Students: senior-level and/or capstone courses

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