



# Making the VSA and the *College Portrait* Work for You

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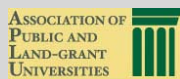


## The Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)

Developed in 2007 for public 4-year institutions

Purpose is to supply comparable information on the Undergraduate Experience

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Common web report: *College Portrait*



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## 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)



Proficiency Profile

## 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 Morrill Act (1873)

### Enrollment

- Undergraduate: 18,778
- Graduate: 3,627
- Total: 23,581

### 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

## 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:

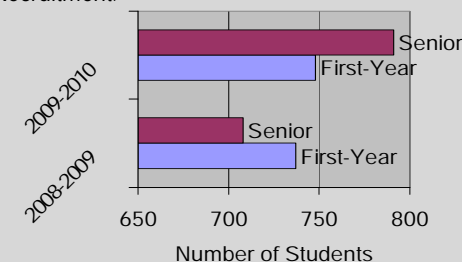
- Cost
- Need for Incentives
- Paper vs. On-line
- Test format
- Administration
- Necessary Sample Size
- How to use Results

## Administration of CAAP

Modules:

- Critical Thinking
- Writing Essay
- Reading

Recruitment:



Test Administration:

- First-Year Students: First-Year Seminars, University Experience & Introduction to Honors
- Senior Students: senior-level and/or capstone courses

## 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?

## Contact Information

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