

# The Potential Influence of CAAP: How it worked at K-State

Kansas State University





# K-State Mission

- *The mission of Kansas State University is to foster excellent teaching, research, and service that develop a highly skilled and educated citizenry necessary to advancing the well-being of Kansas, the nation, and the international community. The university embraces diversity, encourages engagement and is committed to the discovery of knowledge, the education of undergraduate and graduate students, and improvement in the quality of life and standard of living of those we serve.*

—excerpt from full mission

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- Kansas State University is a comprehensive, research, land-grant institution serving students and the people of Kansas, the nation, and the world. Since its founding in 1863, the university has evolved into a modern institution of higher education, committed to quality programs, and responsive to a rapidly changing world and the aspirations of an increasingly diverse society. Together with other major comprehensive universities, K-State shares responsibilities for developing human potential, expanding knowledge, enriching cultural expression, and extending its expertise to individuals, business, education, and government. These responsibilities are addressed through an array of undergraduate and graduate degree programs, research and creative activities, and outreach and public service programs. In addition, its land-grant mandate, based on federal and state legislation, establishes a focus to its instructional, research, and extension activities which is unique among the Regents' institutions.
- Through quality teaching, the university is committed to provide all students with opportunities to develop the knowledge, understanding, and skills characteristic of an educated person. It is also pledged to prepare students for successful employment or advanced studies through a variety of disciplinary and professional degree programs. To meet these intentions, the institution dedicates itself to providing academic and extracurricular learning experiences which promote and value both excellence and cultural diversity. K-State prepares its students to be informed, productive, and responsible citizens who actively participate in advancing cultural, educational, economic, scientific, and socio-political undertakings.
- Research and other creative endeavors comprise an essential component of K-State's mission. All faculty members contribute to the discovery and dissemination of new knowledge, applications, and products. These efforts, supported by public and private resources, are conducted in an atmosphere of open inquiry and academic freedom. Basic to the pursuit of this mission is the university's commitment to broad-based programs in graduate education at both the master's and doctoral levels.
- Faculty, staff, and administrators share their expertise through service to the university and disciplinary organizations, via outreach, engagement, and extension-related activities. Their work provides support to numerous projects related to the goals, missions, or aspirations of the departments, colleges of the university, and to the members of the professional community. Through outreach and engagement initiatives, partnerships are established with various stakeholders to translate knowledge and basic research into applications that address public needs. These service activities are integrally related to the land-grant mission.
- Extension is governed by Kansas statutes that empower elected county councils and district governing boards with authority and responsibility to assess needs and conduct a local educational program in cooperation with Kansas State University and the United States Department of Agriculture (USDA). A network of local extension professionals and volunteers link Kansas State University faculty, the National Cooperative Extension System to the USDA which produces high-quality educational programs.

-Full Text

# K-State Facts:

- Land-Grant Institution for the state of Kansas
  - First land grant institution created under the Morrill Acts (1863), but not the oldest? Nor the first?
- Carnegie Classification:
  - RU/VH: Research University (very high research activity)



# K-State Facts:

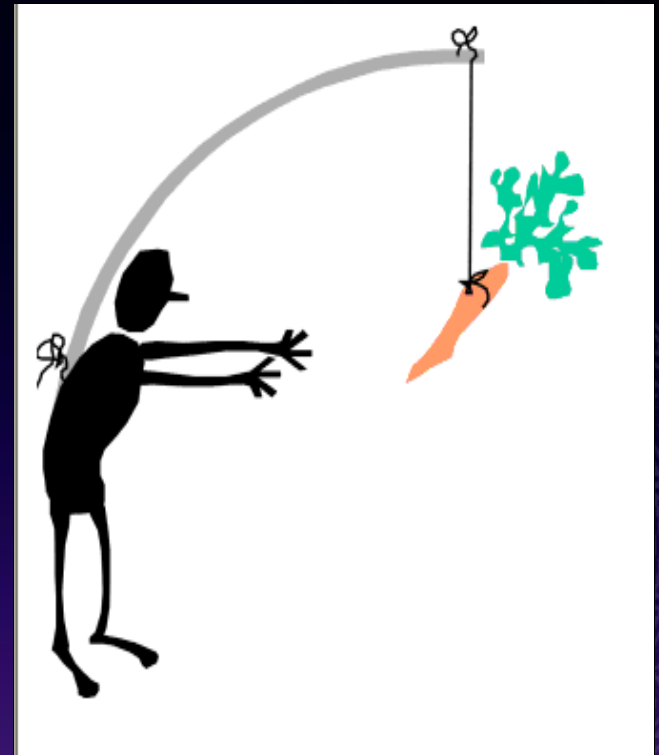
- Enrollment
  - Undergraduate: 18,491
  - Graduate: 5,029
  - Total: 23,520
- Degrees Conferred (FY 2008)
  - Bachelors: 3,362
  - Masters: 803
  - Doctoral: 150
- Faculty
  - 1,099 full- or part-time Instructional Faculty
- 9 Colleges



Common Data Set: Fall 2008

# Past Examples

- Parsing the First-Year of College (2007)
  - Penn State University
    - Recruitment
    - Motivation
  - National Survey of Student Engagement (2007)
    - Response Rates



# Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)

- Recruitment
  - First-Year Students
    - Office works collaboratively with faculty on projects utilizing primarily first-year courses
      - Pilot First-Year Seminars
      - Introduction to Honors
      - University Experience
    - Tested 758 students from F-Y courses
    - Information:
      - <http://www.k-state.edu/assessment/initiatives/VSA.htm>





# Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)

- Recruitment (cont.)
  - Senior Students
    - Requested, via the Provost, volunteer senior-level/capstone courses
    - Several attempts
    - Tested 791 students from senior-level courses
    - Information:
      - <http://www.k-state.edu/assessment/initiatives/VSA.htm>



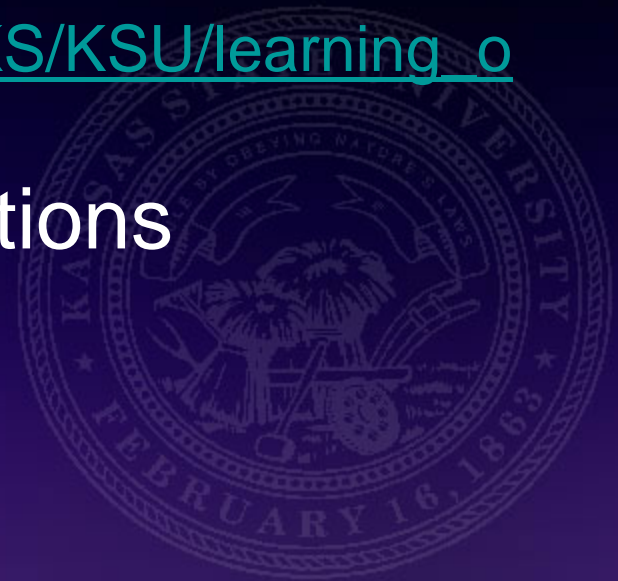
# Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)

- Advantages
  - Captive audience
  - No out-of-class time required
  - Tied to General Education Assessment
    - Communication (Modules: Writing Essay & Reading)
    - Critical Thinking (Modules: Critical Thinking)
- Concerns
  - Student representation?
  - Try their best?



# K-State *College Portrait*

- <http://www.collegeportraits.org/ks/ksu>
- Student Learning Outcomes Page
  - CAAP
    - [http://www.collegeportraits.org/KS/KSU/learning\\_outcomes](http://www.collegeportraits.org/KS/KSU/learning_outcomes)
- Student Experiences/Perceptions
  - NSSE
    - 2007 Results Posted



# K-State College Portrait

## Pilot Project to Measure Core Learning Outcomes

As a pilot project, VSA participants measure critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and written communication using one of three tests. Following are the results from the [College](#) Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP). The CAAP measures critical thinking, analytic reasoning, and written communication and reports separate scores on critical thinking and written communication.

 [Test Administration Process](#)

 [Test Information](#)

### Critical Thinking Results for First-time, Full-time Students

The increase in [learning](#) on the performance task is at an institution with students of similar academic abilities.

Freshman Score: 63  
Senior Score: 65  
CAAP score range: 40 to 80

*Average ACT scores for tested students*  
Freshman Score: 25  
Senior Score: 24

### Writing Essay Results for First-time, Full-time Students

The increase in learning on the performance task is at an institution with students of similar academic abilities.

Freshman Score: 3  
Senior Score: 3  
CAAP score range: 1 to 6

*Average ACT scores for tested students*  
Freshman Score: 24  
Senior Score: 25

## Rate

- Retention Rate for New Freshmen
- Costs of Attendance and Financial Aid
- Undergraduate Admissions
- Degrees and Areas of Study
- Study at Kansas State University
- Student Housing
- Campus Safety
- Future Plans of Bachelor's Degree Recipients
- Carnegie Classification of Institutional Characteristics

## Student Experiences/Perceptions

- Experiences at Kansas State University
- Group Learning Experiences
- Active Learning Experiences
- Institutional Commitment to Student Success
- Student Interaction with Faculty and Staff
- Experiences with Diverse Groups/Ideas
- Student Satisfaction



# Contact Information

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