

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

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Outcomes

1. Understand the value of participating in the VSA
2. Be able to compare the three standardized tests and determine which one is most appropriate for your institution
3. Consider strategies to use standardized test results for university-wide enhancement

K-State Basics:

- Kansas' Land-Grant Institution
 - First land grant institution created under the Morrill Act (1863)
- Carnegie Classification
 - RU/VH: Research University (very high research activity)

K-State Facts:

- 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
- 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

What is the VSA?

Voluntary System of Accountability (VSA)

- Developed in 2007 for public 4-year universities
- Sponsored by and open only to members of:
 - Association of Public and Land-grant Universities (APLU)
 - American Association of State Colleges and Universities (AASCU)
- Purpose is to supply comparable information on the Undergraduate Experience
- Common web report: *College Portrait*
- Currently 332 (64%) institutions have joined the VSA
- Annual membership fees implemented in 2010

K-State's College Portrait

Kansas State University College Portrait
Kansas State University
Manhattan, KS 66506
(800) 432-8270 / (785) 532-6250


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Kansas State University

K-State fosters excellence in teaching, research and service in order to provide a top-notch experience for students who expect to make significant contributions to their communities through their personal and professional activities.



Kansas State University, one of the nation's first land-grant universities, offers more than 250 majors and options, including award-winning programs in each of our nine colleges. The university is home to more than 450 student organizations, Big 12 athletics, top-tier research facilities, and students conduct research alongside their professors. In the last decade K-State has produced two Rhodes, two Marshall, seven Truman, 20 Goldwater, and 17 Udall scholars. Three K-State professors have been named national CASE Professor of the Year, and we're the only Kansas college to produce a national winner. K-State was selected as one of the Princeton Review's best 368 colleges in 2009. Wildcats find what they need on campus—from the rec complex to the libraries to nationally known speakers and performers—and in the community, which offers outdoor recreation, shopping, nightlife, and a healthy dose of purple pride.

Honors Program

Multicultural Opportunities

Health and Wellness

Clubs and Activities

Disability Services

Sustainability

Distance Learning/ Web courses

Recreation and Big XII Athletics

K-State Libraries

The K-State Community

The K-State community 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.

For most students, the "feel" of the campus is as important as the academic excellence - especially the feeling of belonging. K-State is a great place to find your "comfort zone". You can choose from a huge variety of clubs and organizations to match your specific academic or personal interests. Music, dance and theater performances, as well as student and professional gallery displays, provide artistic stimulation across campus. For serious study times, you have a choice of several K-State libraries or cozy up to the fire while you study in the Union and don't forget to treat yourself to some Call Hall ice cream! Since physical and mental health is at the core of success in any field, every student is encouraged to take advantage of the activities served up at the Peters Recreation Complex or offered through Lafene Health Center. And to help with the adjustment students have living away from home and learning to use their time effectively to achieve all their goals, the Office of Student Life provides caring services that help each student feel supported in the university environment. K-State is known for its personal touch.



Student/Family Information

- Student Characteristics
- Undergraduate Admissions
- Costs of Attendance and Financial Aid
- Undergraduate Success & Progress Rate
- Campus Life at Kansas State University
- Degrees, Areas of Study and Future Plans

Student Experiences

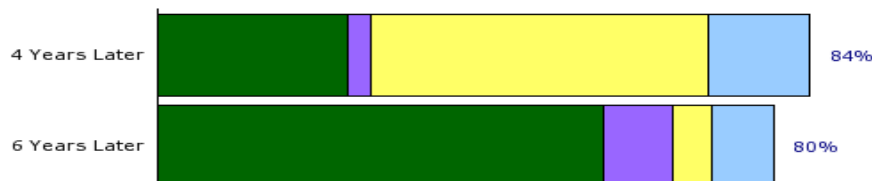
Student Learning Outcomes

K-State's College Portrait

Undergraduate Success and Progress Rate



First Time Full-Time Students



First Time Transfer Students



A 84% four-year success and progress rate means that 84% of students starting in Fall 2002 either graduated or are still enrolled at a higher education institution four years later.

Counts for the Fall 2002 entering class shown in the graph above.

- 3,338 First-Time, Full-Time Students
- 1,355 Full-Time Transfer Students



Retention of Fall 2007 First-Time, Full-time Students

First-time students in Fall 2007 that returned for their second year: 77%

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Student Learning Assessment at Kansas State University

All colleges and universities use multiple approaches to measure student learning. Many of these are specific to particular disciplines, many are coordinated with accrediting agencies, and many are based on outcomes after students have graduated.

K-State is committed to student learning and to providing the highest quality educational experiences for its students. The university upholds assessment of student learning and the use of the results of assessment as key strategies to ensure continuous improvement of student learning. Student learning outcomes at the university, [degree program](#), and support program levels provide a shared vision of what we value and what students are expected to learn. Within a culture of reflection, [scholarship](#), trust, and shared responsibilities, faculty, with participation from students, administrators, alumni, and K-State constituents, develop and implement ongoing and systematic assessment strategies to understand what, how much, and how students learn. Through the use of both direct and indirect sources of evidence of student performance, results from assessment guide collective actions for, among others, curricular change, better learning opportunities for students, improvement of teaching, and more effective [academic](#) support services.

 [Learning Assessment Examples](#)

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K-State's College Portrait

Pilot Project to Measure Core Learning Outcomes

Colleges and universities participating in the College Portrait measure the typical improvement in students' abilities to think, reason, and write using one of three tests. This is part of a pilot project to better understand and compare what students learn between their freshman and senior years at different colleges and universities.

Results from the College Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)

The Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) measures critical thinking and written communication using two test modules -- critical thinking and a writing essay. The critical thinking and writing scores are reported separately below.

 [Test Administration Process](#)

 [Test Information](#)

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

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

Freshman Score: 0
Senior Score: 0
CAAP score range: 40 to 80

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

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

Freshman Score: 0
Senior Score: 0
CAAP score range: 1 to 6

Student Learning Outcomes

Why Participate in the VSA?

- Benefits to Students & Families
 - Comparable information on institutions
 - Common format applied to each institution
 - Consistent metrics used across institutions
 - Standardized test scores
 - Student information (success rates, etc.)
 - Accurate estimates of tuition & fees, and possible financial aid

Why Participate in the VSA?

- Benefits to Institutions
 - Self Monitoring: Demonstrates institutions' willingness to be transparent and communicate openly with potential students
 - Research: Database represents a rich source of information
 - Internal Decision Making: Allows faculty and staff to make valid comparisons across institutions

Requirements for VSA:

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 4-yr “naturalized” seniors
- Must choose one of three standardized tests
 - Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP)
 - Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA)
 - ETS Proficiency Profile (formerly Measure of Academic Proficiency Progress {MAPP})

Comparison of Tests

	<u>CAAP</u>	<u>CLA</u>	<u>ETS PP</u>
Administration	Paper	Online	Online or Paper
Format	6 optional modules (40 min. each)	Performance Task (90 min.) or Analytic Writing Task (75 min.)	Standard (120 min.) or Abbreviated (40 min.)
Sample size	Minimum of 200/module for FY and SR; (KSU = 250)	Minimum of 100 FY & SR or 25% cohort	Minimum 200 FY and 200 SR
VSA Purposes	Critical Thinking & Writing	Critical Thinking & Writing	Critical Thinking & Writing

Selection of Standardized Test: Process Issues

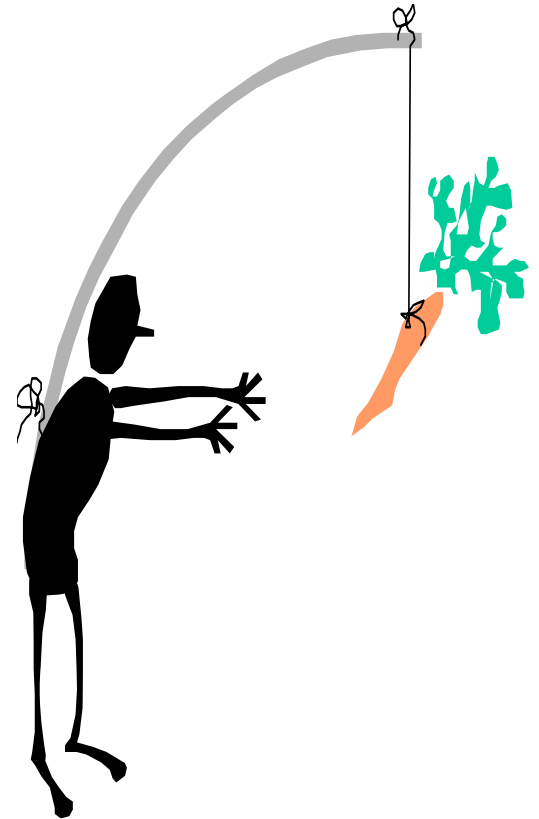
- Stakeholders involved:
 - Faculty Senate, CAPP, General Education Task Force, and Office of Assessment
- Factors critical to decision:
 - Cost
 - Time to complete exam
 - Paper vs. on-line
 - Test Format & administration
 - Sample size necessary
 - Usefulness of results
 - Need for incentives

Past National Test/Survey Experiences

Parsing the First-Year of College

(Spring 2007 - Penn State University)

- 2 CAAP modules and NSSE
- Degree-seeking first-year students from Fall 06
- Paper assessment
- Administered outside of class
- Offered incentives to participate
- Mass email to recruit students = Low response
- Final sample (241) due to instructors requiring participation



Reasons for Selection of CAAP

- Test Format – paper administration
 - Test could be administered in-class
- Time to Complete
 - Class periods of at least 50 minutes
- Cost
 - Incentives not needed if given in class
- Results useful for more than *College Portrait*

Administration of CAAP

- Modules
 - Critical Thinking, Writing Essay, and Reading
- Recruitment
 - First-Year Students
 - Assessment Office works collaboratively with faculty who teach primarily first-year courses
 - First-Year Seminars
 - Introduction to Honors
 - University Experience
 - Tested 737 F-Y students in Fall 08 & 748 in Fall 09

Administration of CAAP

- Recruitment (cont.)
 - Senior Students
 - Request, via the Provost, of faculty to voluntarily administer exam in senior-level/capstone courses
 - Often required multiple contacts with faculty before enough courses were identified
 - Tested 708 seniors in Spring 09 and 791 in Spring 10

Experiences with CAAP

- Advantages
 - Captive audience
 - No out-of-class time required
 - Tied to 2 of 5 undergraduate Student Learning Outcomes
 - Communication (Modules: Writing Essay & Reading)
 - Critical Thinking (Modules: Critical Thinking)
 - Allows for additional analysis of results
 - Report from ACT provides individual scores of each student
 - Scores can be matched with student data to analyze performance across specific groups of participants

College Participation in CAAP module

College	Spring 2009		Spring 2010	
	<u>Writing</u>		<u>Writing</u>	
	<i>N</i>	%	<i>N</i>	%
Agriculture	1	0.4	22	8.7
Architecture	0	0.0	0	0.0
Arts & Sciences	0	0.0	49	19.4
Business	40	15.3	55	21.7
Education	0	0.0	36	14.2
Engineering	167	63.7	39	15.4
Human Ecology	54	20.6	42	16.6
Tech. & Aviation	0	0.0	10	4.0
Total	262	100.0	253	100.0

Experiences with CAAP

- Challenges
 - Meeting VSA Requirements for seniors
 - 4-yr “natural” seniors
 - Within 6 months of graduation
 - Accessing representative sample of students across colleges
 - Motivating students to perform at high levels
 - Considering whether to use online form, when made available

Using CAAP Scores for University Enhancement

Current strategies

- Assess University SLOs
- Compare Writing & Critical Thinking skills across colleges

Future Strategies

- Inform General Education program of any needed enhancements
- Collaborate with high schools

Outcomes Revisited

1. Understand the value of participating in the VSA
2. Be able to compare aspects of standardized tests and develop a process to determine which is most appropriate for an institution
3. Consider strategies to use standardized test results for university-wide enhancement

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Presentation and Additional Information may be found at:
<http://www.k-state.edu/assessment/resources/workshops.htm>