

# ASSESSMENT REPORT

*Student learning is the core of higher education. The Office of Assessment collects data from a variety of assessment methods – including direct methods and indirect methods – to evaluate student learning at Kansas State University.*

## Direct assessments of student learning

*Direct assessment methods involve students producing work so that reviewers can assess how well students meet expectations.*

### **Program-embedded Assessment**

The Office of Assessment collects student achievement data from programs' annual progress reports. These reports identify the number/percentage of students who meet academic Student Learning Outcomes (SLO), for degree expectations. This report is focused on three areas: written communication, oral communication and critical thinking.

For SLO assessments, programs report:

- How many students are assessed
- Number/percentage of students who did not reach the minimum acceptable level
- Number/percentage of students who attained the minimum acceptable level or above but did not reach the program's standard for proficiency
- Number/percentage of students who attained or exceeded the program's benchmark for proficiency

It is important to note that what is reported in this document includes only the programs that assess learning in the aforementioned format. Although the Office of Assessment has requested programs to determine and report student achievement by benchmarked standards, some programs report central tendency. The Office of Assessment respects the autonomy for programmatic decisions as to the form of reporting that is most useful for program improvement.

### **Collegiate Learning Assessment**

These assessment measures provide value-added scores in written communication and critical thinking for freshmen and seniors, and is administered every three years.

## Indirect assessments

*Indirect assessment methods involve students reflecting on learning experiences and informing reviewers of their perceptions. These assessments can help interpret the findings of direct methods.*

### **National Survey of Student Engagement (NSSE)**

The National Survey of Student Engagement documents students' perceptions of learning and exposes factors that contribute to achievement. It also provides insight into the amount of applied experience in particular learning areas and indicates the self-reported effort students put into courses. This survey is administered to freshman and seniors once every three years. The 2013 senior response rate was 43 percent, as compared to the national response rate of 26 percent.

### **Senior survey**

The senior survey identifies students' perceptions of their learning and educational experiences at Kansas State University. The survey is administered at the end of each semester and includes responses from graduating seniors. The annual response rate is about 60 percent.

### **Alumni survey**

The alumni survey provides perspective beyond university training. Alumni who graduated with an undergraduate degree complete the survey one full year after graduation.

# Written communication

## Summary

### Program-embedded Assessment

95% of students assessed reached acceptable or higher.

83% of the students assessed reached proficient or higher.

### Collegiate Learning Assessment

Kansas State University seniors scored in the 76th percentile.

Freshmen scored at or below other institutions, while seniors scored above.



## Student responses from indirect assessments suggest strong development in written communication

94% of seniors responded that their undergraduate studies at Kansas State University contributed to enhanced writing skills.

42.2% of seniors reported they prepared two or more drafts of papers during their senior year.

National Survey of Student Engagement



90.3% of seniors responded that their undergraduate studies at Kansas State University contributed to enhanced writing skills.

Senior survey



66.7% considered they were sufficiently prepared in written communication skills as a result of undergraduate education at Kansas State University.

65.3% revealed that their current jobs required written communication skills for success.

Alumni survey

30.8% reported that more emphasis in written communication could be valuable.

## Program-embedded Assessment

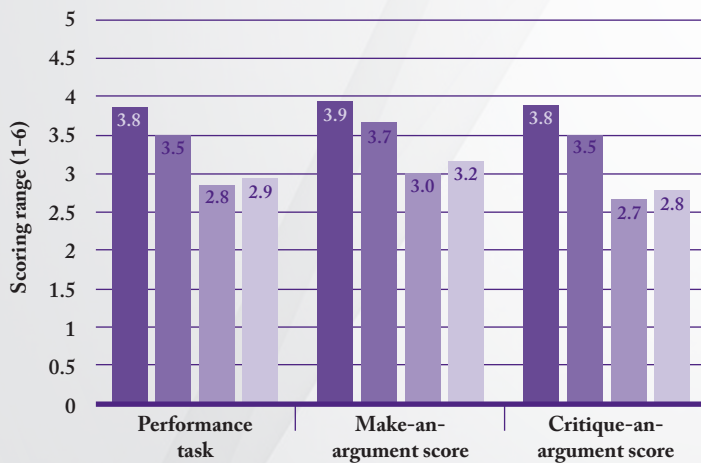
Course-based program assessments show students' achievements in written communication in relation to programs' benchmarked level proficiency for degree expectations.

	Number assessed	Number of students assessed below minimum	Number of students assessed minimum but below proficient	Number of students scoring at or above proficient
College of Agriculture	179	13	27	139
College of Arts & Sciences	831	39	106	686
College of Business Administration			Nonreported this year in this format	
College of Education			Nonreported this year in this format	
College of Engineering	23	0	0	23
College of Human Ecology	210	13	14	183
College of Technology and Aviation	141	1	13	127
Totals from all assessments	1,384	66	160	1,158
		5%	12%	83%

## Collegiate Learning Assessment

These tables portray student achievement by Kansas State University students in written communication. The data exhibits value-added scores, representing improvement from freshman to senior achievement.

### Writing effectiveness



### Writing mechanics



K-State senior average
  National average for Seniors from all CLA scores
  K-State freshman average
  Freshman average from all CLA scores

- Average scores show that Kansas State University seniors score higher in all categories than the national average of schools that administered the CLA. Kansas State University freshmen generally score lower than the national average of schools that administered the CLA.
- Kansas State University seniors' average score for analytic writing was in the 76th percentile, indicating a high level of achievement.

## 2013 National Survey of Student Engagement

*unweighted responses from seniors*

How much has your experience at K-State contributed to your knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas?	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Writing clearly and effectively	5.9%	26.2%	39.9%	28.0%

100%

During the current school year, about how many papers or reports of the following page lengths have you been assigned?	0	1-2	3-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	More than 20
Up to 5 pages	6.1%	24.9%	29.6%	20.0%	8.2%	5.3%	6.0%
Between 6 and 10	29.3%	39.8%	20.0%	7.4%	2.0%	0.8%	0.8%
11 pages or more	49.9%	36.1%	7.7%	3.2%	1.2%	0.5%	1.2%

During the current school year, about how often have you:	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Prepared two or more drafts of a paper or assignment before turning it in	21.4%	38.8%	25.8%	14.1%

100%

## 2012-2013 senior survey

As a result of your experience at K-State, how much progress do you feel you made in:	None	Little	Some	A lot
Improved written communication skills	1.7%	8.1%	39.7%	50.5%

100%

## 2013 alumni survey

Do you believe K-State should have placed less, the same, or more emphasis on:	Less	The same	More
Improving written communication skills	2.5%	66.7%	30.8%

Percentage of those who's current job requires:	Responses
Writing reports, memos, papers, publications, etc.	374 65.3%

# Oral communication

## Summary

### Program-embedded Assessment

98% of the students assessed reached acceptable or higher.

94% of the students assessed reached proficient or higher.



92.1% of seniors responded that their undergraduate studies at Kansas State University contributed to enhancement of oral communication skills.

88.2% of seniors reported giving class presentations.

### National Survey of Student Engagement

91.9% recognized course work contributed to oral communications skills.

73.5% disseminated undergraduate research through class presentations.

17.6% were involved in undergraduate research presented off campus.

### Senior survey



69.9% reported that they gave class presentations on undergraduate research.

19.7% presented undergraduate research off campus.

70.7% responded that oral communication was required in their current job.

35.6% reported that more emphasis in oral communication could be valuable.

### Alumni survey

## Program-embedded Assessment

	Number assessed	Number of students scoring below minimum	Number of students scoring at or above minimum but below proficient	Number of students scoring at or above proficient
College of Agriculture	92	0	9	83
College of Arts & Sciences	113	2	14	97
College of Business Administration	70	0	0	70
College of Education	341	6	11	324
College of Engineering	76	0	0	76
College of Human Ecology	249	8	8	233
College of Technology and Aviation	0	0	0	0
Totals from all assessments	940	16 2%	42 4%	883 94%

## 2013 National Survey of Student Engagement *unweighted responses from seniors*

How much has your experience at K-State contributed to your knowledge, skills, and abilities in the following areas?	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Speaking clearly and effectively	6.7%	26.7%	37.7%	28.9%

During the current school year, about how often have you:	Never	Sometimes	Often	Very often
Explained course material to one or more students	4.0%	32.8%	40.7%	22.5%
Gave a course presentation	11.8%	35.4%	32.8%	20.1%

## 2012-2013 senior survey

As a result of your experience at K-State, how much progress do you feel you made in:	None	Little	Some	A lot
Improved oral communication skills	1.3%	6.8%	36.7%	55.2%

What types of research dissemination did you successfully complete?	Response	% of those who completed some research dissemination
Class presentation	622	73.5%
Oral presentation at a conference outside of campus	149	17.6%

## 2013 alumni survey

Do you believe K-State should have placed less, the same or more emphasis on the following?	Less	The same	More
Improving oral communication skills	2.1%	62.3%	35.6%

Percentage of those who's current job requires:	Response
Speaking to a group	405 70.7%

What types of research dissemination did you successfully complete during your undergraduate education?	Response	% of those who completed some research dissemination
Class presentation	261	69.6%
Oral presentation at a conference beyond campus	74	19.7%

# Critical thinking | Summary

## Program-embedded Assessment

94% of the students assessed reached acceptable or higher.  
84% of the students assessed reached proficient or higher.

## Collegiate Learning Assessment

Kansas State University seniors scored in the 86th percentile.  
Freshmen scored at or below other institutions, while seniors scored above.



## Student responses from indirect assessments support the direct assessment achievement data suggesting strong development in critical thinking

88.2% of seniors responded that their undergraduate studies at Kansas State University contributed to enhancement in critical/analytical thinking.

61.9% of seniors reported course applied knowledge through problem-solving.

79.6% of seniors reported that their course work included analysis/reasoning.

## National Survey of Student Engagement



95% reported course work contributed to critical/analytical thinking.

## Senior survey



87.4% reported that their current job required problem-solving and analytic reasoning.

38% reported that more emphasis in improving the ability to think critically, both analytically and logically, could be valuable.

## Alumni survey

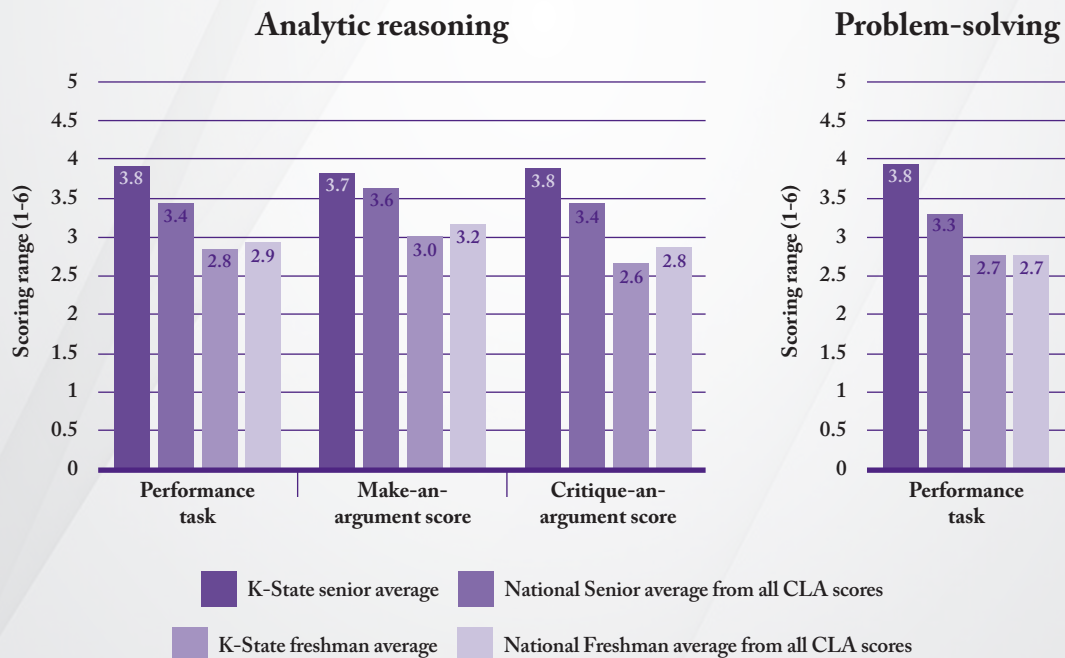
## Program-embedded Assessment

*Critical thinking assessments identify a level of student proficiency achieved for each discipline.*

	Number assessed	Number of students assessed below minimum	Number of a students assessed at or above minimum but below proficient	Number of students assessed at or above proficient
College of Agriculture	149	4	10	135
College of Arts & Sciences	1,149	49	107	993
College of Business Administration	139	1	63	75
College of Education	340	7	10	323
College of Engineering	76	0	0	76
College of Human Ecology	787	52	95	640
College of Technology and Aviation	605	85	34	485
Totals from all assessments	3,244	198	319	2,727
		6%	10%	84%

## Collegiate Learning Assessment

*These tables portray student achievement by Kansas State University students in critical thinking communication. The data exhibit value-added scores, representing improvement from freshman to senior achievement.*



- Average scores show that Kansas State University seniors scored higher in all categories than the average of all schools that administered the CLA nationwide. Kansas State University freshmen performed lower than freshman nationally, but seniors outperformed the national average of their peers.
- The Kansas State University senior average scores in the Critique-an-argument section were in the 86th percentile, a high level of achievement.



## 2013 National Survey of Student Engagement

*unweighted responses from seniors*

How much has your experience at K-State contributed to your knowledge, skills and abilities in the following areas?	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Thinking critically and analytically	1.9%	11.3%	37.7%	49.1%

100%

During the current school year, how much has your course work emphasized the following?	Very little	Some	Quite a bit	Very much
Applying facts, theories or methods to practical problems or new situations	7.1%	34.1%	36.5%	22.3%
Analyzing an idea, experience or line of reasoning in depth by examining its parts	1.9%	16.5%	42.8%	38.8%
Evaluating a point of view, decision, or information source	2.8%	21.4%	42.8%	33.0%
Forming a new idea or understanding from various pieces of information	5.4%	28.9%	40.6%	25.1%

## 2012-2013 senior survey

As a result of your experience at K-State, how much progress do you feel you made in:	None	Little	Some	A lot
Improved ability to think critically (analytically and logically)	0.9%	4.1%	35.1%	59.9%

100%

To what extent was the following emphasized during your time at K-State?	Responses	Mean on a scale of 0-7 (0=weak emphasis, 7=strong emphasis)
Being critical, evaluative and analytical	1,978	5.5

## 2013 alumni survey

Do you believe K-State should have placed less, the same or more emphasis on the following?	Less	The same	More
Improving ability to think critically (analytically and logically)	0.7%	61.4%	38.0%

Percentage of those who's current job requires:	Responses	
Problem solving/analytic reasoning	501	87.4%