

Learning Goal: Critical Thinking

Dates: Fall 2007, Spring 2009, Spring 2011

What was assessed: student's critical thinking abilities

How it was assessed: Longitudinal study using the Collegiate Learning Assessment, Performance Task, Make-an-Argument and Critique-an-Argument

Results:

Results for all UNCW test takers

Task	Number of Students	25 th Percentile	Mean	75 th Percentile	Standard Deviation
Phase 1					
Performance Task	300	962	1062	1150	137
Make-an-Argument	296	880	983	1080	158
Critique-an-Argument	298	929	1047	1159	154
Phase 2					
Performance Task	73	1130	1198	1275	130
Make-an-Argument	73	1134	1185	1264	118
Critique-an-Argument	73	1166	1262	1370	154
Phase 3					
Performance Task	14	1233	1301	1378	100
Make-an-Argument	14	1181	1244	1307	87
Critique-an-Argument	14	1266	1330	1412	162

Results for all test takers across all institutions

	Number of Students	25 th Percentile	Mean	75 th Percentile	Standard Deviation
Phase 1					
Performance Task	11437	971	1087	1209	189
Make-an-Argument	9879	942	1080	1445	188
Critique-an-Argument	9627	869	1079	1167	189
Phase 2					
Performance Task	3327	1012	1157	1277	207
Make-an-Argument	3227	942	1114	1225	181
Critique-an-Argument	3202	1018	1120	1316	180
Phase 3					
Performance Task	2374	1093	1216	1337	194
Make-an-Argument	2318	1051	1199	1354	214
Critique-an-Argument	2317	1083	1240	1393	210

Discussion:

Students participating in first and last phase of testing showed a gain in critical thinking, and the gain was above expectation compared to students across all participating institutions.

Results for UNCW students who participated in Phases 1 and 3.

Task	Number of Students	Mean Phase 1	Mean Phase 3	Difference	Effect Size
Performance Task	14	1146	1315	169	1.06
Make-an-Argument	14	1005	1244	239	1.32
Critique-an-Argument	14	1178	1330	152	1.04

Results for all test takers across all institutions between Phases 1 and 3 were not provided in detail.

The effect size for UNCW was reported as Well Above Expected by the test creator for Performance Task and Make-an-Argument, and Above Expected for Critique-an-Argument.