

Texas A&M University System
2013 Student Learning Outcome Report
for Texas A&M University-Central Texas

COMMUNICATION

COMMUNICATION LEARNING OUTCOME: Upon completion of their degree program, students will be able to express ideas clearly and coherently orally, in writing, and electronically to a diverse range of audiences and interact with others in large and small group settings.

ASSESSMENT: ETS PP – WRITING

The ETS Proficiency Profile consists of 27 multiple-choice questions that most accurately measure a student's ability to "recognize the most grammatically correct revision of a clause, sentence or group of sentences" and "recognize and reword figurative language." This measure allows A&M-Central Texas to assess control of grammar, syntax, and mechanics in communicating ideas with clarity and concision.

RESULTS:

Emerging

The University uses the following scale to determine student accomplishment of the outcome:

- **Exemplary** when 100% are proficient at level 1, 80% at level 2, and 50% at level 3
- **Proficient** when 80% are proficient at level 1, 50% at level 2, and 30% at level 3
- **Sufficient** when 60% are proficient at level 1, 30% at level 2, and 10% at level 3
- **Emerging** when 40% are proficient at level 1, 10% at level 2, and 0% at level 3
- **Insufficient** when 20% are proficient at level 1, 0% at level 2, and 0% at level 3

ANALYSIS:

In Spring 2013, ETS Proficiency Test provided a direct assessment of reading and writing skills. Overall, A&M-Central Texas students (n=148) scored a mean of 115.5 on the reading component of this test in Spring 2013. Students scored a mean of 113.7 on the writing component of the test. These results were below the national norms, suggesting a rating of emerging.

ACTION:

As part of its expansion into Building II (2014 completion), A&M-Central Texas is developing a University Writing Center that will specialize in the support of writing for graduate and undergraduate students across the university.

COMMENTS:

Currently, A&M-Central Texas' use of the ETS-Proficiency Profile have focused on exiting seniors. However, the university is looking expanding its assessment program to include incoming transfer students. This would allow the institution to develop its own "value-added" model of assessment.

CRITICAL THINKING AND PROBLEM SOLVING

Upon completion of their degree program, students will be able to demonstrate critical thinking, including the ability to explain issues; find, analyze, and select appropriate evidence; and construct a cogent argument that articulates conclusions and their consequences. Students will be able to utilize, qualitative and quantitative reasoning as a base for problem solving.

ASSESSMENT: ETS PP – CRITICAL THINKING

The ETS Proficiency Profile consists of 27 multiple-choice questions that most accurately measure a student's ability on critical thinking.

RESULTS:

Emerging

The University uses the following scale to determine student accomplishment of the outcome:

- **Exemplary** when 100% are proficient at level 1, 80% at level 2, and 50% at level 3
- **Proficient** when 80% are proficient at level 1, 50% at level 2, and 30% at level 3
- **Sufficient** when 60% are proficient at level 1, 30% at level 2, and 10% at level 3
- **Emerging** when 40% are proficient at level 1, 10% at level 2, and 0% at level 3
- **Insufficient** when 20% are proficient at level 1, 0% at level 2, and 0% at level 3

ANALYSIS:

In Spring 2013, A&M-Central Texas utilized the ETS Proficiency Profile to assess the attainment of several collegiate-level skills, one of which is critical thinking skills. A&M-Central Texas students (n=148) scored a mean of 109.82 on the critical thinking dimension of the test. These results were below the national norms, suggesting a rating of emerging.

ACTION:

With the introduction of the new core curriculum and the institution's separate accreditation, A&M-Central Texas is working with all of its undergraduate programs to enhance the integration of critical thinking in all of the institution's upper level courses.

COMMENTS:

Currently, A&M-Central Texas' use of the ETS Proficiency Profile have focused on exiting seniors. However, the university is looking expanding its assessment program to include incoming transfer students. This would allow the institution to develop its own "value-added" model of assessment.