

18-19 CLA+ Results

The Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) is a performance-based critical-thinking assessment of college students. CLA+ measures college students' performance in analysis and problem-solving, scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical reading and evaluation, critiquing an argument, and writing mechanics and effectiveness.

Southwestern University administered CLA+ to first-year and senior students during Fall 2018 and to senior students in Spring 2019.

Student who completed the CLA+		
Fall 2018	First-Year: 91	Senior: 40
Spring 2019	--	Senior: 37

This report is adapted from those provided by CLA+ and combines the two administrations.

Key measurements from the CLA+ are:

Total Score

Total Scores are calculated by taking the average of the two CLA+ section scores, thus only students who complete both the Performance Task and the Selected Response Questions receive a total score. It is only these students who are included in this report.

CLA+ Subscores

In addition to total scores, there are six subscores reported across CLA+. The Performance Task – an essay-based section of the exam – is scored in three skill areas: Analysis and Problem Solving, Writing Effectiveness, and Writing Mechanics. Students receive criterion-reference Subscores for each skill category based on key characteristics of their written responses. Selected-Response Questions are also scored in three areas: Scientific and Quantitative Reasoning, Critical Reading and Evaluation, and Critique and Argument. These subscores are scored based on the number of correct responses that students provide.

Mastery Levels

CLA+ Mastery Levels allow distinctions in student performance relative to students' proficiency in critical-thinking and written communication. These levels contextualize CLA+ scores by interpreting results in relation to the qualities exhibited by examinees. Each Mastery Level – Below Basic, Basic, Proficient, Accomplished, and Advanced – corresponds to specific evidence of critical-thinking and written communication skills.

SECTION 1: Summary Results, by Class

Numbers of Students Tested

First-Years: 91 Seniors: 77

Summary CLA+ Results, by Class

		Mean Score	Standard Deviation	25th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score	Effect Size vs First-Years
Total CLA+ Score	First-Year	1122	123	1036	1234	---
	Senior	1164	132	1074	1261	0.34
Performance Task	First-Year	1086	164	995	1226	---
	Senior	1131	143	1040	1227	0.27
Selected-Response Questions	First-Year	1156	164	1046	1281	---
	Senior	1196	164	1106	1320	0.24

Southwestern University has a first-year Total CLA+ score of 1122; this score is greater than or equal to the average freshman score at 84% of participating schools and demonstrates Proficient mastery of the critical-thinking and written-communication skills measured by CLA+.

Southwestern University has a senior Total CLA+ score of 1164, which is better than the average senior score at almost 70% of CLA+ schools and signifies a Proficient mastery of the skills measured by CLA+.

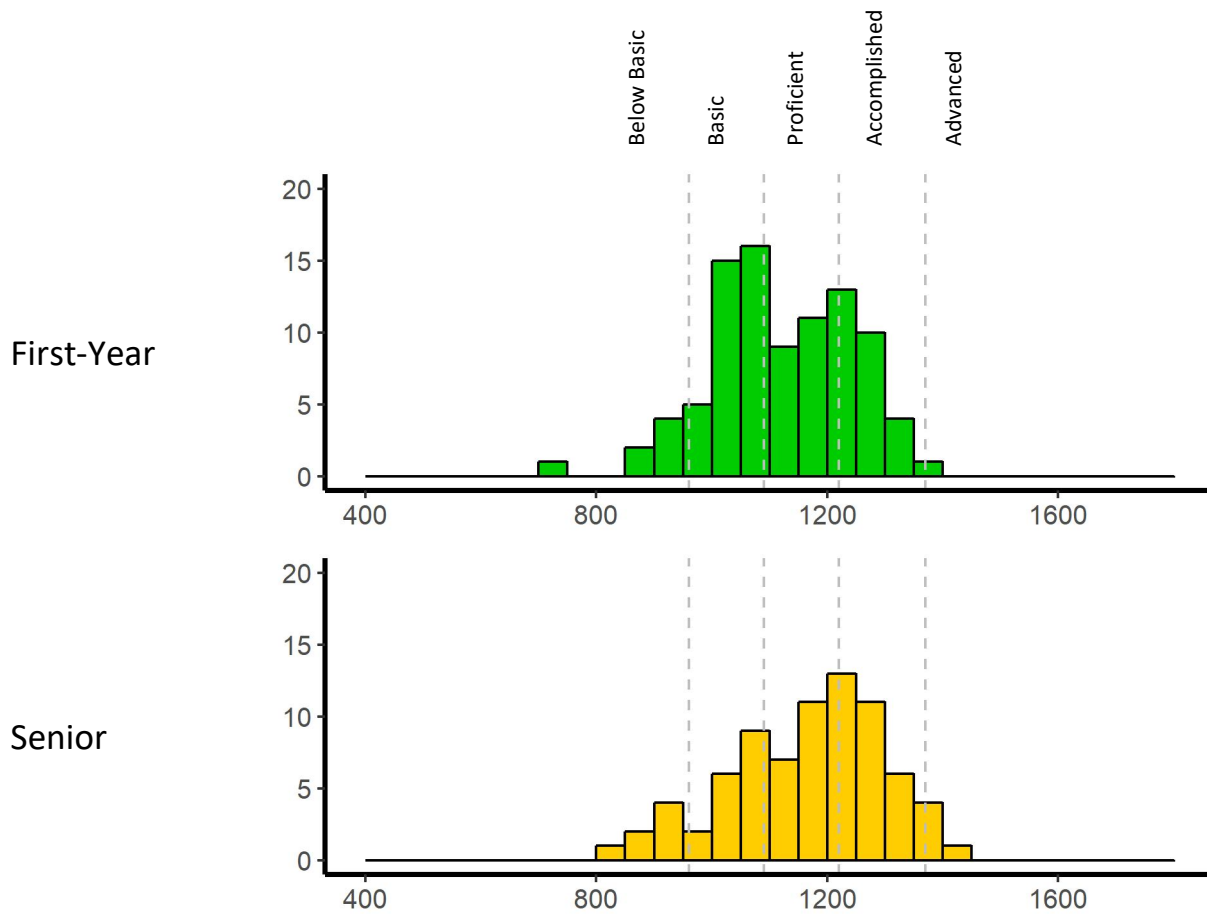
Given the mean CLA+ performance of participating first years and the mean parental education of the participating seniors, Southwestern University's value added is near what would be expected relative to schools testing similar populations of students.

Expected Seniors Scores and Value Added

	Total Score	Performance Task	Selected-Response Questions
Expected	1187	1149	1216
Actual	1167	1135	1198
Value Added	-0.47	-0.27	-0.41

SECTION 2: Distribution of Mastery Levels

Distribution of CLA+ Scores, by Mastery Levels

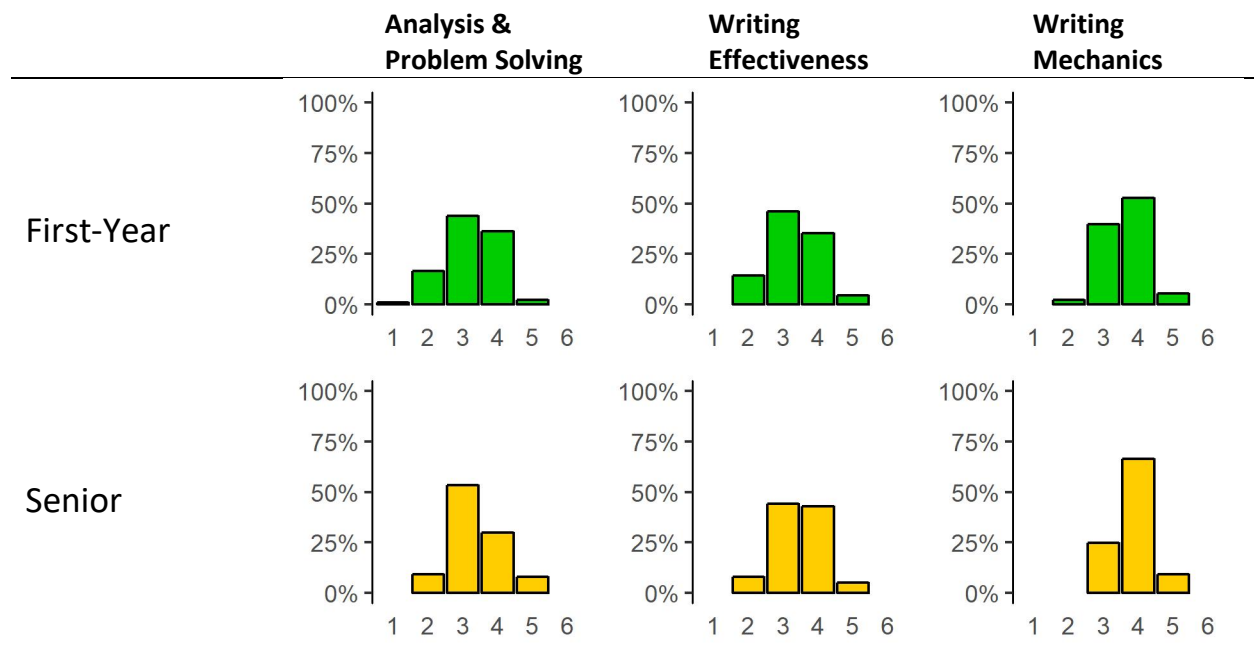


Mastery Levels, by Class

	Mean Total CLA+ Score	Mean Mastery Level	Below Basic	Basic	Proficient	Accomplished	Advanced
First-Year	1122	Proficient	9%	35%	30%	26%	0%
Senior	1164	Proficient	9%	22%	34%	31%	4%

SECTION 3: CLA+ Subscores

Performance Task: Distribution of Subscores (in percentages)



Note: The Performance Task subscores categories are scored on a scale of 1 through 6.

Selected-Response Questions: Mean Subscores

	Scientific & Quantitative Reasoning			Critical Reading & Evaluation			Critique an Argument		
	Mean Score	25 th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score	Mean Score	25 th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score	Mean Score	25 th Percentile Score	75 th Percentile Score
First-year	552	477	625	542	498	596	558	486	654
Senior	569	508	625	566	525	633	560	518	618

Note: the selected-response section Subscores are reported on a scale ranging approximately from 200 to 800.

SECTION 4: Student Effort and Engagement

Student Effort and Engagement Survey Responses

How much effort did you put into the written-response task/selected-response questions?

		No Effort at All	A Little Effort	A Moderate Amount of Effort	A Lot of Effort	My Best Effort
Performance Task	First-Year	0%	3%	42%	33%	22%
	Senior	0%	10%	45%	34%	10%
Selected- Response Questions	First-Year	1%	20%	48%	20%	11%
	Senior	3%	18%	57%	14%	8%

How engaging did you find the written-response task/ selected-response questions?

		Not at all Engaging	Slightly Engaging	Moderately Engaging	Very Engaging	Extremely Engaging
Performance Task	First-Year	4%	15%	43%	31%	7%
	Senior	9%	26%	31%	32%	1%
Selected- Response Questions	First-Year	19%	37%	29%	14%	1%
	Senior	23%	38%	31%	6%	1%

The distribution of effort responses for Southwestern University were similar to the distribution for all institutions testing in 2018-19.

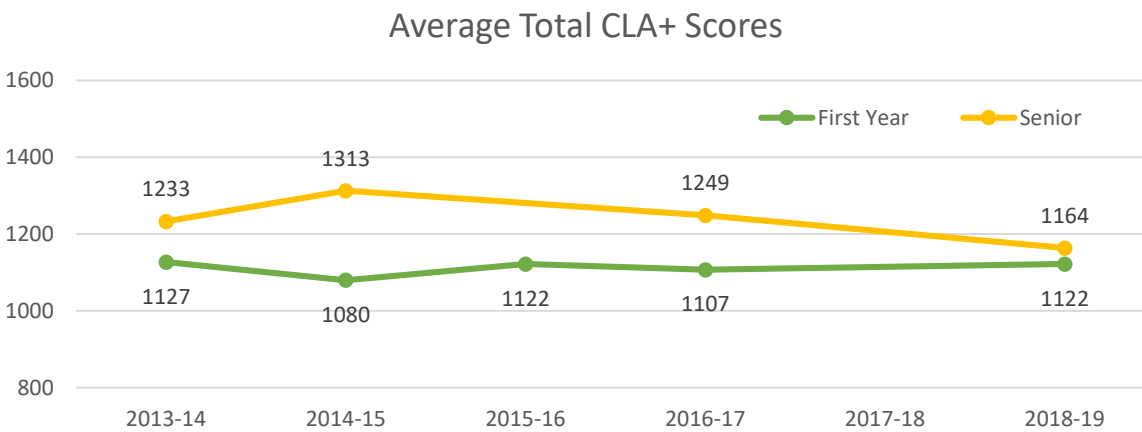
SECTION 5: Student Sample Summary

Demographic Characteristics		First-Year		Senior	
		N	%	N	%
Transfer	Transfer Students	--	--	4	5%
	Non-Transfer Students	--	--	73	95%
Gender	Male	40	44%	32	42%
	Female	50	55%	41	53%
	Decline to State	1	1%	4	5%
Primary Language	English	77	85%	67	87%
	Other	14	15%	10	13%
Field of Study	Science & engineering	36	40%	31	40%
	Social Studies	9	10%	19	25%
	Humanities & Languages	14	15%	18	23%
	Business	12	13%	1	1%
	Helping / Services	6	7%	7	9%
	Undecided / Other / NA	14	15%	1	1%
Race/ Ethnicity	American Indian / Alaska Native / Indigenous	0	0%	0	0%
	Asian (including Indian subcontinent and Philippines)	6	7%	4	5%
	Native Hawaiian or other Pacific Islander	0	0%	0	0%
	African-American / Black, non-Hispanic	3	3%	5	6%
	Hispanic or Latino	16	18%	14	18%
	White, non-Hispanic	59	65%	42	55%
	Other	6	7%	4	5%
	Decline to States	1	1%	8	10%
Parent Education	Less than High School	2	2%	3	4%
	High School	9	10%	7	9%
	Some College	11	12%	12	16%
	Bachelor's Degree	31	34%	17	22%
	Graduate or Post-Graduate	38	42%	37	48%
	Don't Know / NA	0	0%	1	1%

Of students participating in the CLA+ Southwestern University had a higher proportion of Hispanic students and students with parent education at the graduate or post-graduate level, and a lower proportion of African-American/Black students take part.

SECTION 6: Results Over Time

	First Year		Senior		
	N	Average Total Score	N	Average Total Score	Mastery Level
2013-14	99	1127	61	1233	Proficient
2014-15	97	1080	5	1313	Accomplished
2015-16	79	1122	0	-	-
2016-17	143	1107	21	1249	Accomplished
2018-19	91	1122	77	1164	Proficient



CLA+ can show growth of individual students if they participate in the assessment twice. Sixteen students who participated in the 2015-16 CLA+ as First Years also participated as Seniors in 2018-19. These students saw an average increase of 17.75 points of their total score. Twelve of the sixteen students increased their performance task score and seven students increased their scores on the selected response portion.