

A-3, Mastery of General Education and Workforce Program Competencies

Associate of Arts

The results of licensure exam pass rates and the CLAST exam (see A-2) are indicators of student mastery of the curriculum. However, not all workforce programs prepare students to sit for licensure exams and 85% of eligible liberal arts students opt out of the CLAST exam. Thus additional ways are needed to monitor student attainment of learning outcomes.

The general education capstone course, *Connections*, includes a comprehensive assessment of seven learning outcomes to be attained by students as defined by the college. Shown below are the mean scores of faculty assessments across the academic disciplines for students enrolling in the *Connections* course.

Scale: 1 = Inadequate, 2 = minimal, 3 = average, 4 = above average, 5 = Excellent.

General Education Outcome	Fall 2006	Fall 2007	Fall 2008
# of course sections	28	26	28
1. Ability to think critically.	3.66	3.66	3.88
2. Ability to express themselves in written & oral communication	3.54	3.64	3.84
3. Ability to express themselves in quantitative terms.	3.99	3.70	3.39
4. Understanding & appreciation for the value and significance of culture.	3.87	3.73	3.83
5. The scientific method of inquiry and the historical and contemporary impact of science on daily life.	3.57	3.57	4.06
6. Understanding of global, political, social, economic, and historical perspectives.	3.76	3.61	3.56
7. Ability to use technology to access, retrieve, process, and communicate information.	3.84	3.92	4.09

The *Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress* (MAPP) assessment instrument represents an external measure of the effectiveness of HCC's general education program. In 2005, from a pool of more than 3,000 students who were eligible (AA program students who had earned 45 hours or more towards the degree), a random sample of 500 students were invited to participate, and 35 ultimately did. In 2006, all students who were eligible (more than 2500) were invited to participate, and 274 did so. Of these, 255 were included in the study (19 students did not complete the test).

The table below includes HCC's performance as compared to the national group in the areas of critical thinking, reading, writing, and math. HCC will participate in this assessment periodically.

	Proficient			Marginal			Not Proficient		
	HCC 2005	HCC 2006	Nation	HCC 2005	HCC 2006	Nation	HCC 2005	HCC 2006	Nation
Critical Thinking	3%	12%	3%	34%	22%	11%	63%	66%	86%
Reading, Level 1	71%	76%	64%	17%	15%	22%	11%	9%	15%
Reading, Level 2	46%	49%	29%	14%	19%	22%	40%	32%	49%
Writing, Level 1	69%	66%	62%	17%	27%	27%	14%	6%	11%
Writing, Level 2	14%	18%	13%	43%	42%	38%	43%	40%	49%
Writing, Level 3	9%	11%	6%	20%	22%	24%	71%	67%	70%
Math, Level 1	57%	58%	48%	34%	25%	32%	9%	16%	20%
Math, Level 2	31%	35%	20%	20%	23%	30%	49%	42%	51%
Math, Level 3	6%	14%	4%	23%	14%	12%	71%	73%	84%

HCC 2005 Sample = 35 students

HCC 2006 Sample = 255 students

NTL Sample (retrieved electronically from www.ets.org on 4/10/07 – same data posted as of 7/06) = 13,459; weighted to 12,505

Workforce

Workforce program (AS/AAS) staff are revisiting student outcomes against the *State Career and Technical Frameworks*. Program outcomes are accompanied by assessment measures and a statement outlining how the assessment results will be used for improvement. Assessment results will be available in a future edition of the *Critical Success Factor* report.

Shown below are select federal Perkins performance measures for students enrolled in workforce education programs (credit and non-credit). The first measure displayed is the percentage of students attaining technical job skills among program "concentrators." The second measure is the percentage of completers placed in jobs. Due to a rework of the Perkins measures, only the most recent year of data are displayed.

Year	Credit		Non-Credit (PSAV)	
	Technical Skills Attainment (% completing $\frac{3}{4}$ of program with 2.5 GPA)	Job Placement (% of completers placed in jobs)	Technical Skills Attainment (% enrolled earning OCPs* or industry certification)	Job Placement (% of completers placed in jobs)
2007-08	44.1	90.2	80.9	83.6

* OCPs are Occupational Completion Points.