

Assessment of General Education Goal 4.1
 Results of March 2011 CAAP test
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General Education Goal 4: Use critical thinking.

Outcome 1: Students will be able to make rational decisions and solve problems.

The critical thinking section of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) was used to supplement the current assessment plan for General Education Goal 4 for the first time this spring. A total of 89 graduating sophomores participated in the assessment, which was held on Tuesday, March 22nd.

As part of the test, students were asked to self-report their effort. The responses indicated that about 66% tried their best, and 29% gave moderate effort. Only one student indicated that little effort was given, and three did not respond to the question.

Effort	Number	Percent
Tried My Best	59	66%
Gave Moderate Effort	26	29%
Gave Little Effort	1	1%
Gave No Effort	0	0%
No response	3	3%

The scores for the CAAP test ranged from 50 to 72 with a mean score of 62.2. Nationally, the mean for all graduating sophomores for two-year institutions was 60.7. The difference between the two means was statistically significant – the mean score for our students was higher than the national mean. There were 58 (66%) students who scored in the top 50th-percentile nationally and only 31 (35%) who scored in the bottom 50th-percentile. There were also twelve students who scored in the top 90th-percentile nationally and only five students who scored in the bottom 10th-percentile.

	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
JWCC Students	89	62.2	4.9
National	26,264	60.7	5.4

Along with student scores, some demographic and educational factors were also collected with the assessment. These variables included gender, ethnicity, full-time or part-time status, and whether or not a student transferred to JWCC from another school. An analysis was conducted to examine differences in scores based on these variables. There were no significant differences found. However, the analysis was somewhat limited due to the sample size.