

Assessment of General Education Goal 5.1
 Results of March 2012 CAAP test
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General Education Goal 5: Communicate effectively using verbal, nonverbal, listening and written skills.
 Outcome 1: Students will be able to write clearly.

The Writing Skills section of the Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) was used to supplement the current assessment plan for General Education Goal 5. A total of 50 graduating sophomores participated in the assessment. The test was given at two separate times on Tuesday, March 20th.

The target population for the assessment was graduating sophomores of degree programs. Due to the small sample size, the associated margin of error is estimated at 12.5%. When looking at the demographics of the sample, they are fairly representative of the target population. The table below shows a summary of the demographic information.

Demographic	JWCC Sample	Target Population	Mean Score
Female	59%	55%	63.1
Male	41%	45%	63.3
White/Caucasian	88%	93%	62.8
Other/No response	12%	7%	NA
25 and younger	78%	70%	NA
26 and older	22%	30%	NA

As part of the test, students were asked to self-report their effort. The responses indicated that about 84% tried their best, and 14% gave moderate effort. Only one student indicated that little effort was given.

Effort	Number	Percent	Mean Score
Tried My Best	41	84%	63.2
Gave Moderate Effort	7	14%	61.1
Gave Little Effort	1	2%	NA
Gave No Effort	0	0%	NA
No response	0	0%	NA

The scaled scores for the CAAP test ranged from 52 to 73 with a mean score of 63.1. Nationally, the mean for all graduating sophomores for two-year institutions was 61.6. The difference between the two means was statistically significant – the mean score for our students was higher than the national mean. There were 32 (65%) students who scored in the top 50th-percentile nationally and only 17 (35%) who scored in the bottom 50th-percentile. There were also nine students who scored in the top 90th-percentile nationally and only three students who scored in the bottom 10th-percentile.

	N	Mean	Std. Dev.
JWCC Students	49	63.1	5.0
National	26,248	61.6	4.8

The Writing Skills test is divided into two parts: usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills. The mean scores for the usage/mechanics and rhetorical skills parts were 16.6 and 16.5, respectively. Both of these means were above the national averages of 15.9 for usage/mechanics and 15.9 for rhetorical skills.

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.