

Educational Testing Service (ETS) Student Learning Outcomes Assessments OCC Pilot Spring 2015

Assessment Purpose: Helps colleges document and validate their students' General Education competencies in Critical Thinking, Written Communication and Quantitative Literacy

Overview of Assessments:

<http://www.ets.org/heighten/about>

Critical Thinking: The critical thinking assessment measures a student's ability to:

- Evaluate evidence and its use
- Understand implications and consequences
- Analyze and evaluate arguments
- Understand causation and explanation
- Develop sound and valid arguments

Written Communication: The written communication assessment addresses four major areas including:

- Social and rhetorical knowledge
- Domain knowledge and conceptual strategies
- Language use and conventions
- The writing process

Quantitative Literacy: The quantitative literacy assessment addresses five problem-solving skills including:

- Interpretation
- Strategic knowledge and reasoning
- Modeling
- Computation
- Communication

Additionally, the assessment addresses four major mathematical content areas including:

- Number and operations
- Algebra
- Geometry and measurement
- Probability and statistics

Implementation:

- March/April 2015 timeframe
- Computer-delivered (internet-based tests) with staff needed to proctor tests
- Each student will complete two of the three assessments (Critical Thinking, Written Communication and Quantitative Literacy)
- Each test will last approximately 45 minutes and total seat time for testing will be around 2 hours

Student Sample:

- Minimum of 100 students required for participation in pilot
- Consider sampling only students who completed 45 or more units (those closest to graduation) or students in capstone classes
- Consider incentive for participation (e.g., \$15 gift card, certificate of completion, etc.)

Indirect Costs of Pilot Participation:

- Incentive for participation (e.g., \$15 gift card for 100 students = \$1,500)
- Faculty/staff time for proctoring test
- Computer lab space for test administration

Benefits of Pilot Participation:

- Test data will be used as a measure of Institutional Student Learning Outcomes (ISLOs) for OCC
 - Individual raw scores and essay scores (if applicable) for participating OCC students
 - Institutional mean score for each of the three assessments
- 100 free operational tests of one skill assessment (valued at \$1,500) once the assessments are operational (scheduled for September 2015)