

CHRISTOPHER NEWPORT UNIVERSITY

INSTITUTION

Critical Thinking

Definition of Competency:

Critical thinking is using the basic skills of logical reasoning in natural languages, being able to analyze statements for consistency, implications, contradictions, and distinguishing fact from inference and argument from other discourse.

Standards for Competency:

Students will take the ACT Collegiate Assessment of Academic Proficiency (CAAP) Critical Thinking Test and scores will be compared to national norms.

Description of Methodology Used to Gather Evidence of Competency:

A randomly selected sample of 139 incoming freshmen took the ACT CAAP Critical Thinking Test the week before fall classes began in 2005. ACT scored the tests. The scores of incoming freshmen were compared to national norms and are provided below. These same students will be asked to take the tests again as juniors in spring 2008. It is expected that CNU upperclassmen will perform better on the measure than the national average and the incoming freshmen.

Percentage of Students Scoring at Specified Percentile Ranges on Critical Thinking CAAP Assessment

	0-25%ile	26-50%ile	51-75%ile	76-99%ile
Incoming Freshmen (n = 139)	20%	29%	18%	33%
Juniors	TBA	TBA	TBA	TBA

Summary: *(Provide analysis of results)*

Approximately half of the freshmen (51%) scored higher than the 50th percentile indicating that these students come into CNU with approximately the same critical thinking skills as the national norm group. The results of these students as juniors will be provided in 2008. These future results will indicate the value added of CNU's curriculum on students' critical thinking skills.