

Watson-Glaser FAQs for Faculty

Who administers the Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal?

The exam is administered by senior seminar instructors in the 12th week of the Fall or Spring semester. Weekend seminars will administer the exam on the **second** Friday in the last 45 minutes.

How are exams disseminated?

The Office of Academic Assessment and Testing will deliver packets to department offices a week prior to administration. Instructors, department secretaries, or student workers may deliver the completed exams to 2100 Ninth Street Hall. Exams should NOT be sent through campus mail for security reasons.

Are students required to take the exam?

The Watson-Glaser exam is not a graduation requirement, but we encourage instructors to make completion of the exam a requirement of their course.

What do I do if a student has already taken the exam in another Senior Seminar?

Students only need to complete the exam once, so students who take more than one Senior Seminar should only complete the Watson-Glaser once.

Can students take the exam someplace other than in class?

No, students must take the exam with their Senior Seminar class unless they receive accommodations under ADA and Section 504.

How long is the exam?

Students must be given 30 minutes to complete the exam, and the instructions will take 5-10 minutes.

What does this appraisal evaluate?

The Watson-Glaser Critical Thinking Appraisal gauges students' critical thinking abilities. The appraisal is composed of 16 scenarios with 40 items; students complete a scantron form to answer the 40 items. These 40 items are organized by five subtests:

- **Inference** (discriminating among degrees of truth or falsity of inferences drawn from given data)
- **Recognition of Assumptions** (recognizing unstated assumptions or presuppositions in given statements or assertions)
- **Deduction** (determining whether certain conclusions necessarily follow from information in given statements or premises)
- **Interpretation** (weighing evidence and deciding if generalizations or conclusions based on the given data are warranted)
- **Evaluation of Arguments** (distinguishing between arguments that are strong and relevant and those that are weak or irrelevant to a particular question at issue)

The scenarios offered pose both neutral and controversial content. Critical thinking research literature indicates that critical thinking may be affected when people's attitudes, opinions, and biases come into play.

How is this test scored?

Eastern will score this appraisal with the Optiscan reader. Results will be returned to the instructor no later than one week after answer sheets are delivered to Ninth Street Hall.