

Spring 2018 Critical Thinking Data Executive Summary

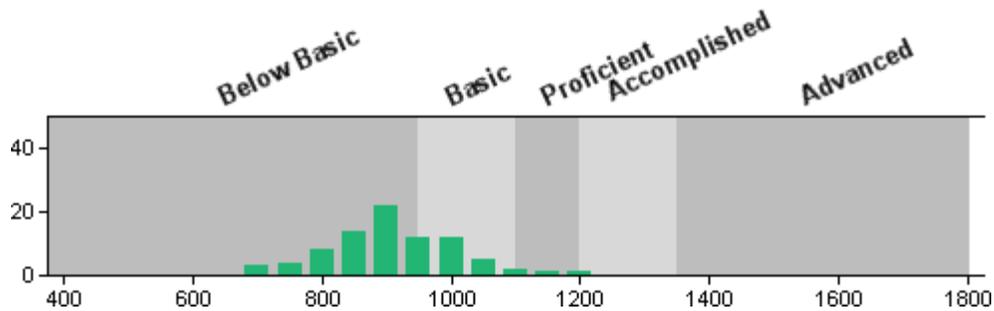
The critical thinking learning goal is described as follows:

1. Asking essential questions and engaging diverse perspectives.
2. Seeking and gathering data, information, and knowledge from experience, texts, graphics, and media.
3. Understanding, interpreting, and critiquing relevant data, information, and knowledge.
4. Synthesizing and integrating data, information, and knowledge to infer and create new insights.
5. Anticipating, reflecting upon, and evaluating implications of assumptions, arguments, hypotheses, and conclusions.
6. Creating and presenting defensible expressions, arguments, positions, hypotheses, and proposals.

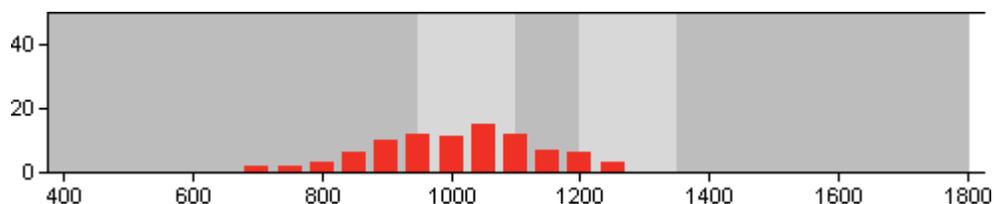
Spring 2018 CLA+

The Collegiate Learning Assessment+ (CLA+) was taken by 84 freshmen, and 89 seniors. The 90-minute exam consists of a 60-minute written performance task, and a 30-minute selected-responses section. The performance task requires students to solve a real-world problem, and provide support for their solution from a document library. The selected-response section asks students to answer 25 questions that are intended to measure scientific and quantitative reasoning skills, critical reading and evaluation skills, and students' ability to critique arguments by identifying logical flaws and questionable assumptions.

EIU has a freshman Total CLA+ score of **936**, which demonstrates **Below Basic** mastery of the critical-thinking and written-communication skills measured by CLA+.



EIU's senior Total CLA+ score is **1035** signifies **Basic** mastery of the skills measured by CLA+.



Results

- EIU's freshman CLA+ score of **936** is greater than or equal to the average freshman score at **11%** of CLA+ schools.
- EIU's senior CLA+ score of **1035** is better than or equal to the average senior score at **8%** of CLA+ schools.

- The mean CLA+ performance is **Below** what would be expected relative to schools testing similar populations of students. This result is consistent with 2015 CLA+ results.
- It is concerning that the improvement in critical thinking skills between freshmen and seniors is negligible.