Introduction
The Online Senior Assessment (OSA) was designed in 2008 to assess general education knowledge and abilities. In fall 2014, Texas Tech University (TTU) revised their core curriculum in compliance with the new Texas mandated core curriculum. It is important to note that this OSA administration does not reflect the current TTU core curriculum and was meant to gather final data on students who were exposed to the previous core curriculum.

The OSA consists of a total 32 knowledge-based questions from the following core curriculum areas: Humanities, Multicultural, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences.

The instrument has one section for each of the following core areas:
- Humanities: 4 knowledge questions
- Multicultural: 7 knowledge questions
- Mathematics: 5 knowledge questions
- Natural Sciences: 6 knowledge questions
- Social and Behavioral Sciences: 10 knowledge questions

Instrumentation
The OSA was administered for the fifth time in the Spring 2016 semester between March 21st and April 25th through use of the Qualtrics online survey program. The survey invitation was sent to all TTU senior students with 90 or more credit hours, approximately 2,928 students or 31.5% of the senior population. Of the targeted population, we received an 18.89% response rate, a total sample of 553 students. As an incentive for participating in the survey, two of the participants were randomly selected to win a $500 scholarship toward tuition and fees.

The sample consisted of 61.6% female students and 38.4% male students. This represents more female students and fewer male students than what would be expected from the population, but the sample was representative in terms of college and ethnicity. The following tables break the participants down by gender, ethnicity, and college.
Before starting each core area section, participants were asked where they completed their core requirement for that specific area. Credits could be received from dual credit courses, advanced placement, CLEP exam, another institution, or TTU. The following table summarizes the responses.
Results
Of the 70 questions the OSA contained, only the 32 questions from Humanities, Multicultural, Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Social and Behavioral Sciences where one correct answer exists (i.e. knowledge questions) were included in this analysis. The self-assessment questions were excluded since there is no right or wrong answer. Of the 32 knowledge questions, one question was excluded from data analysis due to an error in the administration which caused incorrect answer choices to be linked to the question. As a result, only 31 questions are included in the analysis. The average overall score on the OSA was 61.3%. The low score was 12.9% and the high score was 100%.

The following chart summarizes the overall performance of students (i.e., the percentage of correct answers) with a standard deviation of 16.58.

One of the main questions the OSA can help answer is if students who took their core requirement courses at institutions other than Texas Tech perform similar to students who took their core requirement courses at Texas Tech. In this analysis, we compare students who took their core requirement courses at Texas Tech, referred to as the “TTU” group, to students who transferred in credits for core requirements from elsewhere, referred to as the “ELSE” group. Since it is possible for the same student to receive credit for one core area at Texas Tech (e.g. Multicultural) and credit for another core area somewhere else (e.g. Humanities), we created a third category, referred to as “Mixed”, to address this. Overall, 11.07% of students stated that they took all of their courses at Texas Tech.

The following chart shows that students who took their core courses at Texas Tech had more scores between 50% and 80% on the assessment and students who took courses both at Texas Tech and somewhere else had more scores between 80% and 100%. Students who took all of their core courses somewhere else had the most scores below 40%. Additionally, the average score for the TTU group was 63.42%, whereas the Mixed group scored an average of 62.94% and the ELSE group scored an average of 60.27%.
The chart below compares the average scores of each core curriculum area for the three groups. The lowest performing core area was Social & Behavioral Sciences, with an average score of 49.54%, and the highest performing core area was Humanities, with an average score of 72.59%.

Conclusion
Comparing overall average scores for students who completed their core courses at TTU (TTU group) and scores for students who completed their core courses somewhere else (ELSE group) show that on average the TTU group scored slightly higher than the ELSE group (63.42% for TTU vs 60.27% for ELSE). In comparing the average scores for the separate core areas, the only area in which TTU scored significantly higher than the ELSE group was Multicultural (75.61% for TTU vs 70.07% for ELSE). The only core area in which the TTU and ELSE groups scored similarly was Natural Sciences (67.79% for TTU vs 67.72% for ELSE).