Texas Tech administered the Collegiate Learning Assessment to a sample of 59 freshmen in the fall of 2007 and a sample of 100 seniors in the spring of 2008. The CLA assesses institutional “value added to key higher order skills,” including “critical thinking, analytic reasoning, problem solving, and written communication. “The fall 2007 Freshman CLA included a national sample of 167 institutions whose data are available for comparative purposes. The fall 2007 sample of TTU Freshmen “establishes a baseline to compare freshmen tested…to seniors…tested in the spring 2008” (“fall 2007 CLA Institutional Report”; see Appendix D). Overall, Texas Tech freshmen (n=59) scored “at the expected” level on the CLA. The sample was generated by soliciting voluntary participation from all fall 2007 first-time, full-time freshmen. In a recent report from The Council of Independent Colleges (CIC), http://cic.org/publications/books_reports/CLAreport.pdf, the problem of securing a representative sample and recommendations for remediation are discussed. One of the recommendations, including the assessment in a first-year seminar, is being utilized to ensure that a sample of 100 is secured for fall 2008 freshmen.

TTU Graduating senior students (n=100) completed the Collegiate Learning Assessment in March of 2008. The sample was generated from voluntary participation of all students who had earned more than 90 student credit hours and who had been cleared for graduation in May, August or December 2008. The findings provide a measurement of performance against that predicted by freshmen CLA and SAT/ACT scores, as well as comparison against the national cohort of participating schools (n=167 in the fall report and n=176 in the spring report). The results of this administration indicate that Texas Tech University contributes more to the learning gains made by students than 71 percent of the 176 four-year undergraduate institutions participating in the 2007-2008 CLA (See
Appendix E). Overall, Texas Tech University seniors performed “Above Expected.” On August 15, 2008, Core faculty teams met with a CLA representative to discuss the findings and use for improvement in the classroom. CLA representatives have also agreed to host a CLA in the Classroom workshop at Texas Tech so that TTU faculty and other representatives from regional institutions can gain a greater understanding of how to use CLA findings in appropriate ways to improve pedagogy and student learning. The CLA is scheduled for administration each consecutive academic year through 2011-2012 (see Texas Tech General Education Competency Assessment Cycles).

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Freshmen</th>
<th></th>
<th>Seniors</th>
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<th>Value-Added Estimate</th>
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<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Percentile Rank</td>
<td>Performance Level</td>
<td>Percentile Rank</td>
<td>Performance Level</td>
<td>Percentile Rank</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Total CLA Score</strong></td>
<td>67</td>
<td>At</td>
<td>81</td>
<td>Above</td>
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<td><strong>Performance Task</strong></td>
<td>69</td>
<td>At</td>
<td>62</td>
<td>At</td>
<td>39</td>
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<td>60</td>
<td>At</td>
<td>94</td>
<td>Well Above</td>
<td>88</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Make-an-Argument</strong></td>
<td>80</td>
<td>Above</td>
<td>97</td>
<td>Well Above</td>
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<tr>
<td><strong>Critique-an-Argument</strong></td>
<td>35</td>
<td>At</td>
<td>82</td>
<td>Above</td>
<td>88</td>
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