The College Senior Survey (CSS), developed and managed by the Higher Education Research Institute (HERI), has been administered in five of the past six years at Texas Tech. In 2006-07, the CSS was redesigned by HERI to help “institutions respond to the need for assessment and accountability data by providing information on a broad range of student outcomes...” (http://www.gseis.ucla.edu/heri/cssoverview.php). The CSS includes sub-scales that address improvement of academic abilities and skills that inform the attainment assessment of TTU’s college-level General Education competencies.

In the spring of 2007, 1183 Texas Tech seniors completed the College Senior Survey; the national cohort size was 26,710. In 2008, the instrument was distributed to faculty in several Colleges who taught sections with large concentrations of graduating seniors; 750 Texas Tech seniors completed the College Senior Survey. Locally-developed questions pertaining to ethics and academic integrity (Quality Enhancement Plan topics) were included in TTU’s spring 2008 administration. The 2008 CSS data has been analyzed and is waiting for release of the national mean data for final release and use.

In the spring of 2008, the survey was administered randomly to senior students and of the 748 surveys distributed, 625 were returned, resulting in an 83% return rate. The Core Curriculum / General Education Committee members reviewed the CSS and indicated that some of the questions contained in the survey could be useful to their secondary assessment efforts. In support of that effort, one of the staff support group members created a template of the CSS Survey questions crossed by the eight General Education Core Curriculum groups and presented it during August 2008 Core Competency Team (CCT) meeting. To obtain a copy of the crosswalk, please contact Jennifer.S.Hughes@ttu.edu.