August 2016 Vol. 5 Issue 1



Assessment Times

IN THE SPOTLIGHT~ ARMY ROTC

Inside this issue:

In The Spotlight 1

CLA Results 2

On The Horizon 2

Bowie

Bowie State University

Bowie State University has an Army ROTC program led by Lieutenant Colonel Joel Thomas and Captain Katie Lynn Dale. As a part of their ROTC Developmental Assessment held the summer after their junior year, the cadets take the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) and the Collegiate Learning

Miller Analogies Test (MAT) and the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA). Performance on these tests, along with Military Science knowledge and physical tests, are what

determine the cadets' ranking, and thus the branch choices for those cadets who continue in military careers.



In the next edition...MSCHE Periodic Review Report (PRR) feedback and results



How to contact us... Center for Academic Programs Assessment (CAPA)

Martin Luther King Jr. Communication Arts Center Suite 236-237

Office:301-860-4004 Office: 301-860-4504 Office: 301-860-3501 Fax: 301-860-4296

bverzinski@bowiestate.edu lharbinson@bowiestate.edu jredd@bowiestate.edu The MAT and CLA measure the cadets' analytical, critical thinking and communications skills, all of which are very important in ROTC and military leadership. This year's graduating ROTC seniors first took these tests in summer 2015 and again in spring 2016.

In an effort to increase the cadets' scores for the MAT and the CLA, the Center for Academic Programs Assessment (CAPA) undertook a pilot program in the spring of 2016. The program gave the cadets, all of whom were rising seniors, information on the format of the MAT and CLA tests. The program gave them an opportunity to do practice tests, and they beta-tested a new on-line flashcard program which gave them immediate feedback about their performance.

The feedback from the cadets about the pilot was very positive, with 100% of the cadets strongly agreeing or agreeing that the material they learned in this pilot was helpful in preparing for the MAT and CLA that they will take this summer. Test results are expected in September and will be analyzed to determine whether the pilot program was helpful in raising cadets' MAT and CLA scores. The hope is that the preparation CAPA provided positively impacted their learning and test results and that the center will be able to continue to offer this program to BSU ROTC cadets in the future.



Assessment Times Page 2



On The Horizon:

USM Academic Program
Reviews are required to be
submitted every seven
years. Many CAS and COE
programs are up for review
during the next two years.
Please check the CAPA
website for a full listing and
contact the AVP for
Assessment to schedule a
self-study training review for
departmental faculty.



 $\stackrel{\wedge}{\Longrightarrow}$

 - Milton Friedman



COLLEGIATE LEARNING ASSESSMENT (CLA+) RESULTS

In AY 2014-2015, Bowie State participated in the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) pilot study with the Council for Aid to Education. The assessment consists of two sections: 1) a performance task (PT) that presents students with a real-world situation that requires a purposeful written response where they address the issue, propose a solution to the problem and recommend a course of action to resolve a conflict by utilizing the documents provided in the online library; 2) selected-response questions (SRQ) that measure scientific and quantitative reasoning, critical reading and evaluation, and argument critique. In AY 2015-2016, BSU completed a second year of CLA+ assessment for both freshmen and seniors.

Test scores indicate that students are performing at the mean and within the standard deviation for all similar institutions and that growth was as expected for the BSU cohort. The CLA+ results for both freshmen and senior cohorts were included in the Voluntary System of Accountability report which can be viewed at: http://www.collegeportraits.org/MD.

The CLA+ results are a powerful tool for assessing students' critical thinking and written communication skills by measuring the growth on these skills and determining how BSU compares to other institutions. The data in the table below represents student performance based on the PT writing rubric.

Table 1: CLA+ Performance Task Results 2014-2016

2014-15	Analysis & Problem Solving	Effective Writing	Writing Mechanics
Freshman	71%	81%	93%
Seniors	79%	87%	91%
2015-16	Analysis & Problem Solving	Effective Writing	Writing Mechanics
Freshman	77%	79%	94%
Seniors	78%	82%	94%
2014-15	% Below Mastery Level	% Basic to Advanced Level	Overall Score
Freshman	48%	51%	981
Seniors	26%	74%	1033
2015-16	% Below	% Basic to Advanced	Overall
Freshman	46%	54%	991
Seniors	33%	67%	1013