

SAILS - Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

The SAILS assessment (Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills) is an on-line assessment based on the standards developed by ACRL (Association of College and Research Libraries). The SAILS assessment is a replacement research skills test for the iSkills assessment, which is being phased out.

SAILS tests and measures eight skill-sets of college students:

1. Developing a research strategy
2. Selecting finding tools
3. Searching
4. Using finding tool features
5. Retrieving sources
6. Evaluating sources
7. Documenting sources
8. Understanding economic, legal and social issue

The assessed skill areas are directly aligned with the ACRL standards, and the General Education competencies of technological competency, critical thinking skills and information literacy skills. Bowie State University has been conducting SAILS beginning in fall 2016/spring 2017. The assessment then continued throughout 2017-2018. Comparative data examined BSU students with benchmark institutions and institutions nationally. Cumulative data will be available in late June 2018.

In summer 2018, CAPA will be conducting an assessment of senior College of Business students. The data collection and analysis of graduating COB students will provide valuable data for the college and for support of current accreditation activities for College of Business programs.