

Measure & Develop Students' Higher-Order Skills

Your school or district has identified the skills, knowledge, attitudes, and attributes every student should have upon graduation. You regularly assess reading, math, and science to ensure students are meeting benchmarks, but what about critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication?

Just like core subjects, these critical skills can be measured and taught. CAE's performance-based [College and Career Readiness Assessment \(CCRA+\)](#) measures critical higher-order skills and provides a more complete picture of your students' readiness for the rigors of today's academics and their next steps following graduation.

CCRA+ Provides Insights into Student Proficiency with Critical Higher-Order Skills:



Analysis & Problem Solving



Data Literacy



Writing Effectiveness



Critical Reading & Evaluation



Writing Mechanics



Critiquing an Argument

"Performance assessments can provide extensive and nuanced evidence of student abilities, including meaningful insight into student thinking and performance."

*U.S. Department of Education:
Strategies for Using American Rescue Plan Funding to Address the Impact of Lost Instructional Time, Washington, DC, 2021.*



Help Students Improve the Skills That Will Enable Them to Achieve Their Education & Career Goals

Contact CAE for more information and to schedule a consultation.

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Authentic Assessment That Put Students' Higher-Order Skills to Work

To build students' higher-order skills, educators must first know the areas in which students need support. CCRA+ authentically measures the essential academic and career readiness skills of critical thinking, problem solving, and effective written communication.

CCRA+ can be used for formative and summative purposes, including evaluating how well students have developed essential skills at the beginning and/or end of a particular class or academic year, or to measure growth over multiple years.

How Does CCRA+ Work?



Real-World Scenarios

Students are situated in real-world scenarios that require the application of critical thinking, problem-solving, and written communication skills.



Recommend a Solution

Using supplied reference materials, students must organize information, define the problem, address issues, consider and evaluate solutions, and recommend and defend a course of action.



No Single "Right" Answer

Student scores reflect a range of plausible and effective response strategies — a process that, by design, mimics real-world, decision environments.

Actionable Data to Build Students' Higher-Order Skills

Detailed student and institution-level reports can be used to:

- Identify individual student and institution-wide mastery of essential skills.
- Evaluate how your students compare to peers in your institution and across CAE's extensive data set.
- Measure the effectiveness of specific curriculum, interventions, and programs.
- Provide evidence-based microcredentials.

CAE Assessment Results INSTITUTION REPORT

Name of Institution: _____

Month/Year: _____

Summary

This report provides an analysis of your students' performance on the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+), which measures proficiency with critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication skills. These are among the top skills employers want most.

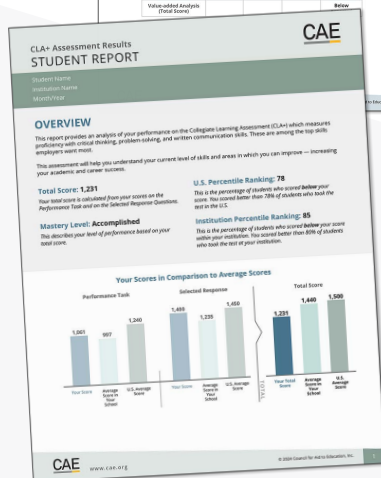
This assessment will help you understand your students' current level of skills and areas in which they can improve — increasing their academic and career success.

In addition to your institution's data, we have compared your students' scores with national averages.

You can use these data to:

- Develop programs and provide instruction to help students develop their critical thinking, problem-solving, and written communication skills.
- Provide additional supports to students who have greater opportunities for growth.
- Help students set goals for growth in these essential skills.
- Demonstrate student abilities and outcomes to hiring organizations.

Year	1st	2nd	3rd	4th
Students Tested	100	100	100	100
Average Mastery Level	Developing			Proficient
% Proficient or above	5%			72%
Effect size analysis (Total Score)				Great positive effect (1.6)
Value-added analysis (Total Score)				Below



CAE Also Supports Student Growth with:



- Custom assessments including performance-based assessments for subject areas
- Critical thinking instructional materials and practice performance tasks
- Professional development to help educators apply the results of CAE assessments and incorporate essential skills into course content