

## FALL 2013

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## Summary

## Report on the Fall 2013 Assessment on Scientific Reasoning Ability

During the fall 2013 semester, the College implemented the Classroom Test of Scientific Reasoning (CTSR) in Interdisciplinary courses and high level science courses.

This assessment was conducted under the leadership of the Assessment Committee and the support of the Offices of Instruction and Institutional Research. The project was coordinated by Jane Reynolds, Assessment Committee Chair, and director of the Respiratory Care program.

The instrument was designed to measure students' ability to apply aspects of scientific and mathematical reasoning to analyze a situation to make a prediction or solve a problem. The test was developed by Anton E. Lawson from Arizona State University.

The purpose of the research was to compare the performance of two groups of students at different levels of their college education. The data consisted of 418 students enrolled in the College Success seminar and 760 students enrolled in higher level courses. The total enrollment at the College during fall 2013 semester was 5,316 students. The data represented $22 \%$ of that total enrollment. After blank surveys and duplicates were eliminated from the returns, valid and usable surveys remained for a return rate of 55 percent. The demographic profile of the respondents closely matched that of the full student body with respect to gender, academic status, etc.

The following question guided the study:

- Is there a difference between the score of students enrolled in College Success seminar and students enrolled in higher level courses?
- Do students in higher level courses have a positive effect on overall test scores?

The results showed a significant, positive correlation for thirteen of the questions.
We expect that the results from this assessment will provide evidence to support the efforts to identify the areas where students have a strong understanding of concepts and where to concentrate more resources to ensure student success.

# A Comparison of Student Performance in Scientific Reasoning Ability 

## Background

As part of the colleges' on-going effort to provide and maintain high quality instruction to students, the assessment committee implemented the test of Classroom Test of Scientific Reasoning was administered during the fall 2013 semester.

The timing of this effort was prompted by five-year assessment plan established at the district level. Therefore, the assessment committee in consultation with the Office of Academic Affairs and the Office of Institutional Research and Planning, implemented the test, which was designed to measure students' ability to apply aspects of scientific and mathematical reasoning to analyze a situation to make a prediction or solve a problem. The results from this test are supposed to help faculty determine where students have a strong understanding of concepts and where they man need help.

The purpose of the research was to compare the performance of two groups of students at different levels of their college education: students who have enrolled less than one semester at the college and have not taken any science course, and students who have been enrolled at the college at least 2 semesters and have taken the necessary requirements to complete higher level science courses.

## Methodology

## Instrumentation

The test was developed by Anton E. Lawson from Arizona State University, and it contains 24 multiple-choice questions.

This multiple-choice test includes questions on conservation, proportional thinking, identification of variables, probabilistic thinking, and hypothetico-deductive reasoning.

The answer sheet contained two parts: (1) Demographic Questions - questions referring to age, gender, ethnic background, (2) 24-multiple choice questions - questions developed to measure the students' ability to understand key scientific and mathematical concepts.

A copy of the test is provided in Appendix A.

## Procedure

To quantify the level of Scientific Reasoning ability by our students, we designed the study to compare the distribution of correct answers by students enrolled in the College Success seminar (Group 1) and those enrolled in higher level courses (Group 2).

To implement the assessment, the assessment committee determined that all sections of College Success Seminar (INTDSP 101) were to administer the test. A total of 27 sections with an approximate enrollment of 843 students were selected. We received 418 complete responses, a almost $50 \%$ response rate.

Students from the higher level courses were selected from students enrolled in Biology courses (122, 130, 131, 209, 226, and 227), Chemistry courses (201, 203, 205, and 207), Physics courses (131 and 201), Physical Sciences courses (101, 107 and 111), and Microbiology courses (233). Appendix 2 shows tables with the number of students for each course and their corresponding number of responses.

## Data Collection

Using the class size report, the institutional researcher extracted the courses and sections to be used during the assessment. Appendix 2 provides a detailed description of the selected courses.

## Demographic Questions

Students were requested to complete the demographic section in the survey to make sure we had a representative sample. Thus, the distribution of demographic characteristics described in this section reflects the overall enrollment at the College.

Responses to the demographic questions were tabulated and comparisons were made with the overall student population. In general, gender, ethnicity, and age distributions of the respondents reflected demographic characteristics of our student population. Appendix 3 shows overall enrollment at the college for the fall 2013 semester.

## RESULTS FROM DEMOGRAPHIC SECTION

The following tables describe the participants' characteristics.

Table 1: What is your gender?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Male | $31.8 \%$ | $23.9 \%$ |
| Female | $64.8 \%$ | $73.3 \%$ |
| No response | $3.3 \%$ | $2.8 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0} \%$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 2: What is your age?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Under 18 | $0.5 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ |
| $18-20$ | $56.0 \%$ | $10.1 \%$ |
| $21-25$ | $16.3 \%$ | $34.6 \%$ |
| $26-30$ | $8.1 \%$ | $22.1 \%$ |
| $31-36$ | $4.5 \%$ | $16.4 \%$ |
| $37-40$ | $3.3 \%$ | $6.3 \%$ |
| 40 and above | $\mathbf{7 . 9 \%}$ | $7.9 \%$ |
| No response | $3.3 \%$ | $2.4 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0} \%$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 3: Are you Latino/Hispanic?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Yes | $28.5 \%$ | $27.4 \%$ |
| No | $65.1 \%$ | $66.4 \%$ |
| Prefer not to disclose | $2.9 \%$ | $3.4 \%$ |
| No response | $3.6 \%$ | $2.8 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 4: Race (Choose all that apply)

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| American Indian or Alaska Native | $3.8 \%$ | $2.0 \%$ |
| Native Hawaiian or Other Pacific Islander | $1.7 \%$ | $0.8 \%$ |
| Asian | $2.6 \%$ | $9.7 \%$ |
| White | $11.5 \%$ | $25.1 \%$ |
| Black or African American | $59.3 \%$ | $42.6 \%$ |
| No response | $21.1 \%$ | $19.7 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 5: Including the current term, how many semesters have you been enrolled at MXC?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 1 semester (new student) | $84.9 \%$ | $25.7 \%$ |
| 3 semesters | $8.1 \%$ | $33.3 \%$ |
| 4 semesters | $1.0 \%$ | $15.1 \%$ |
| 5 semesters | $0.7 \%$ | $8.9 \%$ |
| 6 semesters or more | $1.4 \%$ | $13.7 \%$ |
| No response | $4.3 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 6: What is your current enrollment status?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Full-time | $79.4 \%$ | $53.6 \%$ |
| Part-time | $17.5 \%$ | $43.9 \%$ |
| No response | $3.1 \%$ | $2.5 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0} \%$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 7: How many hours in a typical week are you employed?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| I do not work | $50.0 \%$ | $24.7 \%$ |
| Less than 28 | $19.9 \%$ | $21.1 \%$ |
| 29 to 34 | $10.5 \%$ | $12.4 \%$ |
| 35 to 40 | $9.8 \%$ | $26.3 \%$ |
| More than 40 | $6.5 \%$ | $12.8 \%$ |
| No response | $3.3 \%$ | $2.8 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 8: What is the highest level of education you have completed?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Less than High School | $1.7 \%$ | $0.1 \%$ |
| High School/GED | $58.4 \%$ | $13.2 \%$ |
| Some College | $31.1 \%$ | $44.5 \%$ |
| 2-Year College Degree (Associates Degree) | $2.6 \%$ | $13.7 \%$ |
| Other: | $3.3 \%$ | $25.9 \%$ |
| No response | $\mathbf{2 . 9 \%}$ | $2.6 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 9: What is the highest level of education you intend to complete?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 2-Year College Degree (Associate's) | $23.0 \%$ | $10.8 \%$ |
| 4-Year College Degree (BA, BS) | $40.0 \%$ | $31.6 \%$ |
| Master's Degree (M.S., M.A.) | $18.9 \%$ | $31.7 \%$ |
| Doctoral Degree (EdD, PhD) | $7.7 \%$ | $12.6 \%$ |
| Professional Degree (MD, JD) | $5.3 \%$ | $8.9 \%$ |
| No response | $5.3 \%$ | $4.3 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 10: What is your marital status?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Single | $84.2 \%$ | $75.9 \%$ |
| Married | $6.2 \%$ | $13.9 \%$ |
| Divorced | $2.6 \%$ | $3.3 \%$ |
| Widowed | $0.5 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Other | $3.6 \%$ | $3.7 \%$ |
| No response | $\mathbf{2 . 9 \%}$ | $2.6 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 11: Do you have any children?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Yes | $32.8 \%$ | $35.7 \%$ |
| No | $64.3 \%$ | $61.7 \%$ |
| No response | $2.9 \%$ | $2.6 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0} \%$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 12: If you answered YES to the previous questions, how many children do you have?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 1 | $17.0 \%$ | $16.4 \%$ |
| 2 | $5.7 \%$ | $10.3 \%$ |
| 3 | $5.7 \%$ | $5.3 \%$ |
| 4 | $2.4 \%$ | $3.2 \%$ |
| More than 5 | $2.6 \%$ | $0.7 \%$ |
| No response | $66.5 \%$ | $64.2 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Table 13: What is the relevance of science to your future career?

| Category | Group 1 | Group 2 |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| Very high | $31.6 \%$ | $62.0 \%$ |
| High | $25.1 \%$ | $19.9 \%$ |
| Medium | $22.2 \%$ | $10.9 \%$ |
| Low | $6.5 \%$ | $1.8 \%$ |
| Very low | $5.7 \%$ | $0.5 \%$ |
| Not relevant at all | $5.5 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 . 1 \%}$ |
| No response | $3.3 \%$ | $\mathbf{2 . 8 \%}$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

## Table 14

## ANSWERS PROVIDED BY STUDENTS IN GROUP 1

This table provides the number of students from group 1 and their choices by question. For example, question 1 was answered correctly by 291 students. The correct answer for that particular question is B. Question 2 was answered correctly by 263 students.

|  | A | B | C | $\mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | Blank | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Question 1 | 27 | 291 | 97 | 3 | 0 | 0 | 418 |
| Question 2 | 23 | 40 | 78 | 263 | 13 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 3 | 120 | 237 | 55 | 4 | 1 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 4 | 36 | 30 | 222 | 29 | 100 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 5 | 240 | 59 | 36 | 29 | 53 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 6 | 49 | 215 | 72 | 58 | 24 | 0 | 418 |
| Question 7 | 53 | 223 | 31 | 51 | 57 | 3 | 418 |
| Question 8 | 105 | 56 | 60 | 143 | 54 | 0 | 418 |
| Question 9 | 28 | 136 | 53 | 85 | 115 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 10 | 28 | 124 | 132 | 101 | 32 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 11 | 115 | 87 | 158 | 47 | 8 | 3 | 418 |
| Question 12 | 61 | 74 | 110 | 109 | 60 | 4 | 418 |
| Question 13 | 115 | 84 | 157 | 51 | 9 | 2 | 418 |
| Question 14 | 66 | 102 | 99 | 94 | 53 | 4 | 418 |
| Question 15 | 118 | 141 | 105 | 29 | 23 | 2 | 418 |
| Question 16 | 215 | 35 | 80 | 37 | 50 | 1 | 418 |
| Question 17 | 87 | 130 | 116 | 72 | 10 | 3 | 418 |
| Question 18 | 35 | 80 | 86 | 96 | 117 | 4 | 418 |
| Question 19 | 182 | 90 | 119 | 17 | 6 | 4 | 418 |
| Question 20 | 98 | 134 | 44 | 109 | 27 | 6 | 418 |
| Question 21 | 54 | 141 | 102 | 40 | 72 | 9 | 418 |
| Question 22 | 114 | 130 | 95 | 58 | 13 | 8 | 418 |
| Question 23 | 107 | 142 | 121 | 37 | 4 | 7 | 418 |
| Question 24 | 97 | 149 | 109 | 45 | 11 | 7 | 418 |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Table 15

## Percent of Answers - Group 1

This table provides the percent of students from group 1 and their choices by question. For example, question 1 was answered correctly by $70 \%$ students, while $30 \%$ of them provided an incorrect answer. Most of the incorrect answers were given to the option C (23\%). The correct answer for that particular question is B. Question 2 was answered correctly by $63 \%$ students. Options B and C received respectively $10 \%$ and $19 \%$ of the incorrect answers.

|  | A | $\mathbf{B}$ | $\mathbf{C}$ | $\mathbf{D}$ | $\mathbf{E}$ | Blank | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Question 1 | $6 \%$ | $70 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 2 | $6 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $63 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 3 | $29 \%$ | $57 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 4 | $9 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 5 | $57 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 6 | $12 \%$ | $51 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 7 | $13 \%$ | $53 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 8 | $25 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 9 | $7 \%$ | $33 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 10 | $7 \%$ | $30 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 11 | $28 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $38 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 12 | $15 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 13 | $28 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $38 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 14 | $16 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 15 | $28 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 16 | $51 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $12 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 17 | $21 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 18 | $8 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 19 | $44 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 20 | $23 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 21 | $13 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $17 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 22 | $27 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 23 | $26 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $29 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 24 | $23 \%$ | $36 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
|  |  |  |  |  |  |  |  |

## Table 16

## ANSWERS PROVIDED BY STUDENTS IN GROUP 2

This table provides the number of students from group 1 and their choices by question. For example, question 1 was answered correctly by 633 students. The correct answer for that particular question is B . Question 2 was answered correctly by 605 students.

|  | A | B | C | D | E | Blank | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Question 1 | 42 | 633 | 82 | 1 | 0 | 2 | 760 |
| Question 2 | 31 | 34 | 68 | 605 | 19 | 3 | 760 |
| Question 3 | 271 | 421 | 61 | 6 | 0 | 1 | 760 |
| Question 4 | 39 | 37 | 393 | 50 | 240 | 1 | 760 |
| Question 5 | 442 | 167 | 48 | 40 | 62 | 1 | 760 |
| Question 6 | 39 | 378 | 199 | 106 | 36 | 2 | 760 |
| Question 7 | 73 | 398 | 66 | 119 | 102 | 2 | 760 |
| Question 8 | 297 | 68 | 56 | 258 | 80 | 1 | 760 |
| Question 9 | 26 | 190 | 78 | 105 | 356 | 5 | 760 |
| Question 10 | 39 | 169 | 359 | 158 | 29 | 6 | 760 |
| Question 11 | 183 | 213 | 278 | 68 | 15 | 3 | 760 |
| Question 12 | 136 | 159 | 145 | 239 | 77 | 4 | 760 |
| Question 13 | 199 | 120 | 354 | 70 | 10 | 7 | 760 |
| Question 14 | 87 | 155 | 142 | 260 | 109 | 7 | 760 |
| Question 15 | 165 | 245 | 297 | 26 | 21 | 6 | 760 |
| Question 16 | 504 | 47 | 122 | 40 | 42 | 5 | 760 |
| Question 17 | 90 | 377 | 163 | 109 | 16 | 5 | 760 |
| Question 18 | 36 | 139 | 105 | 149 | 323 | 8 | 760 |
| Question 19 | 432 | 123 | 159 | 31 | 6 | 9 | 760 |
| Question 20 | 140 | 211 | 69 | 300 | 34 | 6 | 760 |
| Question 21 | 174 | 197 | 142 | 98 | 138 | 11 | 760 |
| Question 22 | 227 | 266 | 143 | 96 | 20 | 8 | 760 |
| Question 23 | 209 | 278 | 210 | 48 | 7 | 8 | 760 |
| Question 24 | 127 | 359 | 181 | 62 | 22 | 9 | 760 |

## Table 17

## Percent of Answers - Group 2

This table provides the percent of students from group 1 and their choices by question. For example, question 1 was answered correctly by $83 \%$ students, while $17 \%$ of them provided an incorrect answer. Most of the incorrect answers were given to the option C (23\%). These results were consistent with the results from group 1 . Question 2 was answered correctly by $80 \%$ students. Options A, B and C received respectively $4,4 \%$ and $9 \%$ of the incorrect answers.

|  | A | B | C | D | E | Blank | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Question 1 | $6 \%$ | $83 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 2 | $4 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $80 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 3 | $36 \%$ | $55 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 4 | $5 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $52 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 5 | $58 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 6 | $5 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 7 | $10 \%$ | $52 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 8 | $39 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $7 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $11 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 9 | $3 \%$ | $25 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 10 | $5 \%$ | $22 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 11 | $24 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $37 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $0 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 12 | $18 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $31 \%$ | $10 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 13 | $26 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 14 | $11 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $34 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 15 | $22 \%$ | $32 \%$ | $39 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 16 | $66 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $5 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 17 | $12 \%$ | $50 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $2 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 18 | $5 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $14 \%$ | $20 \%$ | $43 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 19 | $57 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 20 | $18 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $9 \%$ | $39 \%$ | $4 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 21 | $23 \%$ | $26 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 22 | $30 \%$ | $35 \%$ | $19 \%$ | $13 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 23 | $28 \%$ | $37 \%$ | $28 \%$ | $6 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |
| Question 24 | $17 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $24 \%$ | $8 \%$ | $3 \%$ | $1 \%$ | $100 \%$ |

## Table 18

## Number of Correct Answers

The following tables provide the distribution of the number of correct answers obtained by students.

In group 1, only one student obtained an almost perfect score (21 correct answers)

## Group 1

| Correct | count | percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 0 | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| 1 | 8 | $1.9 \%$ |
| 2 | 14 | $3.3 \%$ |
| 3 | 30 | $7.2 \%$ |
| 4 | 35 | $8.4 \%$ |
| 5 | 60 | $14.4 \%$ |
| 6 | 52 | $12.4 \%$ |
| 7 | 52 | $12.4 \%$ |
| 8 | 47 | $11.2 \%$ |
| 9 | 39 | $9.3 \%$ |
| 10 | 29 | $6.9 \%$ |
| 11 | 19 | $4.5 \%$ |
| 12 | 3 | $1.9 \%$ |
| 13 | 4 | $0.7 \%$ |
| 14 | 4 | $1.0 \%$ |
| 15 | 3 | $0.7 \%$ |
| 16 | 5 | $1.2 \%$ |
| 17 | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| 18 | 2 | $0.5 \%$ |
| 19 | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| 20 | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| 21 | 418 | $100.0 \%$ |
| Total |  |  |

Group 2

| Correct | count | percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| 0 | 2 | $0.3 \%$ |
| 1 | 5 | $0.7 \%$ |
| 2 | 10 | $1.3 \%$ |
| 3 | 35 | $4.6 \%$ |
| 4 | 51 | $6.7 \%$ |
| 5 | 62 | $8.2 \%$ |
| 6 | 70 | $9.2 \%$ |
| 7 | 76 | $10.0 \%$ |
| 8 | 79 | $10.4 \%$ |
| 9 | 56 | $7.4 \%$ |
| 10 | 53 | $7.0 \%$ |
| 11 | 36 | $4.7 \%$ |
| 12 | 36 | $4.7 \%$ |
| 13 | 29 | $3.8 \%$ |
| 14 | 32 | $4.2 \%$ |
| 15 | 19 | $2.5 \%$ |
| 16 | 14 | $1.8 \%$ |
| 17 | 27 | $3.6 \%$ |
| 18 | 17 | $2.2 \%$ |
| 19 | 15 | $2.0 \%$ |
| 20 | 15 | $2.0 \%$ |
| 21 | 8 | $1.1 \%$ |
| 22 | 8 | $1.1 \%$ |
| 23 | 5 | $0.7 \%$ |
| Total | 760 | $100.0 \%$ |
|  |  |  |

## Table 19

## Comparing the Number of Correct Answers by Group

The following tables and graphs provide a distribution of the number of correct answers provided by students.

Group 1

| range | count | percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| $0-4$ | 88 | $21.1 \%$ |
| $5-8$ | 211 | $50.5 \%$ |
| $9-12$ | 95 | $22.7 \%$ |
| $13-16$ | 14 | $3.3 \%$ |
| $17-20$ | 9 | $2.2 \%$ |
| $21-24$ | 1 | $0.2 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{4 1 8}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

## Correct Answers Group 1



Group 2

| range | count | percent |
| :--- | ---: | ---: |
| $0-4$ | 103 | $13.6 \%$ |
| $5-8$ | 287 | $37.8 \%$ |
| $9-12$ | 181 | $23.8 \%$ |
| $13-16$ | 94 | $12.4 \%$ |
| $17-20$ | 74 | $9.7 \%$ |
| $21-24$ | 21 | $2.8 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{7 6 0}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 0 . 0 \%}$ |

Correct Answers Group 2


Table 20

## Comparing the Answers from the Two Groups

| Questions | Group 1 | Group 2 | Answer | \% Change |  |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Question 1 | 70\% | 83\% | B | 16\% | $\checkmark$ |
| Question 2 | 63\% | 80\% | D | 21\% | $\checkmark$ |
| Question 3 | 29\% | 36\% | A | 19\% | $\checkmark$ |
| Question 4 | 24\% | 32\% | E | 25\% | $\pm$ |
| Question 5 | 14\% | 22\% | B | 36\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 6 | 17\% | 26\% | C | 35\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 7 | 12\% | 16\% | D | 25\% | $\geq$ |
| Question 8 | 25\% | 39\% | A | 36\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 9 | 28\% | 47\% | E | 40\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 10 | 32\% | 47\% | C | 32\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 11 | 21\% | 28\% | B | 25\% | $\pm$ |
| Question 12 | 15\% | 18\% | A | 17\% | $\geq$ |
| Question 13 | 38\% | 47\% | C | 19\% | $\geq$ |
| Question 14 | 22\% | 34\% | D | 35\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 15 | 25\% | 39\% | C | 36\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 16 | 51\% | 66\% | A | 23\% | $\geq$ |
| Question 17 | 31\% | 50\% | B | 38\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 18 | 28\% | 43\% | E | 35\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 19 | 44\% | 57\% | A | 23\% | $\geq$ |
| Question 20 | 26\% | 39\% | D | 33\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 21 | 13\% | 23\% | A | 43\% | $\uparrow$ |
| Question 22 | 27\% | 30\% | A | 10\% | $\checkmark$ |
| Question 23 | 26\% | 28\% | A | 7\% | $\downarrow$ |
| Question 24 | 26\% | 24\% | C | -8\% | $\downarrow$ |

This table provides a comparison between the two groups and the number of correct answers by question. The percent change provides how large the difference between the two groups is.

## Comparing Answers to each Question by Group

These graphs offer a visual aid to compare the percent of correct responses by each group to each question.




## Question 15

Question 16


## Question 17



## Question 18



Question 19
57\%


Question 20


Question 21


Question 22


## Question 23

## Question 24



## ANALYSIS OF RESULTS AND DISCUSSION

## Independent Samples T-tests for Scientific Reasoning Assessment Test

The purpose of the research was to compare the performance of two groups of students at different levels of their college education: students who have enrolled less than one semester at the college and have not taken any science course, and students who have been enrolled at the college at least 2 semesters and have taken the necessary requirements to complete higher level science courses.

The research questions were determined by the need to explore what students know when they reach higher level courses compared to what students bring with them when they enroll in college.

The following questions guided the study:

- Is there a difference between the score of students enrolled in College Success seminar and students enrolled in higher level courses?
- Do students in higher level courses have a positive effect on overall test scores?

Null hypothesis: there is NO difference between the mean score of psychology students and law students.
ho: $\mu 1=\mu 2$
Alternative hypothesis: there is difference between the mean score of psychology students and law students.
$h a: \mu 1 \neq \mu 2$
The independent $t$-tests indicated that international first-year students scored higher than their American counterparts on level of academic challenge, active and collaborative learning, studentfaculty interaction, and technology use

## Table 21

## Results

|  | Group 1 |  |  | Group 2 |  |  | Sig. (2- |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
|  | N | Mean | Std Dev | N | Mean | Std Dev | tailed) |
| Question 1 | 418 | 2.18 | .541 | 758 | 2.06 | .407 | .000 |
| Question 2 | 417 | 3.49 | .915 | 757 | 3.72 | .766 | .000 |
| Question 3 | 417 | 1.87 | .681 | 759 | 1.74 | .634 | .001 |
| Question 4 | 417 | 3.30 | 1.165 | 759 | 3.55 | 1.135 | .001 |
| Question 5 | 417 | 2.03 | 1.445 | 759 | 1.83 | 1.251 | .013 |
| Question 6 | 418 | 2.50 | 1.053 | 758 | 2.63 | .949 | .033 |
| Question 7 | 415 | 2.60 | 1.252 | 758 | 2.71 | 1.234 | .172 |
| Question 8 | 418 | 2.96 | 1.415 | 759 | 2.68 | 1.522 | .002 |
| Question 9 | 417 | 3.29 | 1.349 | 755 | 3.76 | 1.355 | .000 |
| Question 10 | 417 | 2.96 | 1.057 | 754 | 2.96 | .891 | .930 |
| Question 11 | 415 | 2.39 | 1.066 | 757 | 2.36 | 1.007 | .710 |
| Question 12 | 414 | 3.08 | 1.268 | 756 | 2.95 | 1.286 | .097 |
| Question 13 | 416 | 2.41 | 1.083 | 753 | 2.43 | 1.020 | .747 |
| Question 14 | 414 | 2.92 | 1.273 | 753 | 3.20 | 1.247 | .000 |
| Question 15 | 416 | 2.27 | 1.114 | 754 | 2.33 | .946 | .385 |
| Question 16 | 417 | 2.21 | 1.449 | 755 | 1.77 | 1.220 | .000 |
| Question 17 | 415 | 2.49 | 1.079 | 755 | 2.45 | .950 | .510 |
| Question 18 | 414 | 3.43 | 1.307 | 752 | 3.78 | 1.301 | .000 |
| Question 19 | 414 | 1.97 | 1.012 | 751 | 1.74 | .979 | .000 |
| Question 20 | 412 | 2.59 | 1.282 | 754 | 2.84 | 1.255 | .002 |
| Question 21 | 409 | 2.84 | 1.286 | 749 | 2.77 | 1.418 | .411 |
| Question 22 | 410 | 2.33 | 1.120 | 752 | 2.22 | 1.093 | .110 |
| Question 23 | 411 | 2.24 | .972 | 752 | 2.16 | .934 | .138 |
| Question 24 | 411 | 2.33 | 1.037 | 751 | 2.32 | .948 | .953 |

The following questions Q1,Q2,Q3,Q4,Q5,Q6,Q8, Q09,Q14,Q16,Q18, Q19, Q20 had a p-value less than 0.05 ; therefore, we have to reject the null hypothesis and conclude that there is a difference between the mean score of students in group 1 and students in group 2 at a 5\% significance level.

That is, in 13 out of 24 questions, or $54.17 \%$, group 2 performed statistically different that group 1.

## APPENDIX 1

Copy of Test

## APPENDIX 2

The following table shows the number of students enrolled in the College Success seminar course and the number of students that participated.

| Subject | Respondents | Total Enrollment | percent |
| :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| INTDSP | 418 | 843 | $\mathbf{4 9 . 6 \%}$ |

In total, 27 sections from the College Success seminar participated in the assessment. We had 17 regular sessions and 10 mini sessions. Overall almost $50 \%$ of the sampled students participated in the test.

## Higher Level Courses Selection

The following tables show the number of sections and enrollment. This is the pool used for group 2.

## Biology Courses

| Courses | \# Sections | Class Size |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 122 | 3 | 43 |
| 130 | 1 | 20 |
| 131 | 1 | 20 |
| 209 | 1 | 18 |
| 226 | 10 | 319 |
| 227 | 7 | 211 |
| Total | $\mathbf{2 3}$ | $\mathbf{6 3 1}$ |

Physics Courses

| Course | \# Sections | Class Size |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 131 | 2 | 29 |
| 201 | 1 | 23 |
| Total | $\mathbf{3}$ | $\mathbf{5 2}$ |

## Microbiology Courses

| Course | \# Sections | Class Size |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 233 | 7 | 178 |
| Total | 7 | 178 |

Chemistry Courses

| Course | \# Sections | Class Size |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 201 | 4 | 108 |
| 203 | 1 | 21 |
| 205 | 1 | 22 |
| 207 | 1 | 10 |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 6}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 5}$ |

Physical Sciences Courses

| Course | \# Sections | Class Size |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| 101 | 3 | 80 |
| 107 | 1 | 8 |
| 111 | 1 | 20 |
| Total | $\mathbf{5}$ | $\mathbf{1 0 8}$ |

These tables show the number of participants by discipline and the rate of return.

| SUBJECT | count | total | rate of return |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Biology | 435 | 631 | $69 \%$ |
| Chemistry | 52 | 215 | $24 \%$ |
| Microbiology | 115 | 178 | $65 \%$ |
| Physics |  | 52 | $56 \%$ |
| Physical Sciences |  | 108 |  |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 9 1}$ | $\mathbf{1 1 8 4}$ | $\mathbf{5 8 \%}$ |

In addition of the general education courses, we also had participation from the following programs:

| SUBJECT | count | total | rate of return |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Physician Assistant | 13 | 21 | $62 \%$ |
| Respiratory Therapy | 25 | 56 | $27 \%$ |
| Mortuary Science | 18 | 24 | $75 \%$ |
| Renal Tech | 13 | 15 | $92 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{6 9}$ | $\mathbf{1 2 6}$ | $\mathbf{5 5 \%}$ |

In total, we had the following selection, the number of responses, and the rate of return.

| Level | Returned | Distributed | rate of return |
| ---: | ---: | ---: | :---: |
| INTDSP | 418 | 843 | $50 \%$ |
| Higher Level courses | 760 | 1310 | $58 \%$ |
| Total | $\mathbf{1 1 7 8}$ | $\mathbf{2 1 5 3}$ | $\mathbf{5 5 \%}$ |

## APPENDIX 3

## College Enrollment during Fall 2013

## Headcount Enrollment by Race/Ethnicity

|  | Asian | Native <br> American | Black/African <br> American | Hispanic | White | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Credit | $4 \%$ | $<1 \%$ | $63 \%$ | $23 \%$ | $7 \%$ | 5,316 |

Headcount by Gender

|  | Male | Female | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Credit | $\mathbf{2 9 \%}$ | $\mathbf{7 1 \%}$ | $\mathbf{5 , 3 1 6}$ |

Headcount Enrollment by Age

|  | $<21$ | $21-30$ | $31-39$ | $>40$ | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Credit | $32 \%$ | $41 \%$ | $15 \%$ | $12 \%$ | 5,316 |

Headcount Enrollment by Employment Status

|  | Full time | Part time | Not Employed | Other | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Credit | $21 \%$ | $18 \%$ | $47 \%$ | $13 \%$ | 5,316 |

Other includes homemaker, no responses, and other

Headcount Enrollment by Semester Hours Enrolled

|  | $1-3$ | $4-6$ | $7-11$ | $>12$ | Total |
| :--- | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: | :---: |
| Credit | $7 \%$ | $16 \%$ | $21 \%$ | $57 \%$ | 5,316 |

Headcount Enrollment for New and Continuing Students

|  | Total | Percent |
| :--- | :---: | :---: |
| Continuing Students | 1,701 | $68 \%$ |
| New Students | 3,615 | $32 \%$ |

