



CLA+

Assessment
Prep Materials:
For Students

▶ Prepare for Your Future, Today

How the Collegiate Learning Assessment (CLA+) can help.

You will soon be taking the CLA+ assessment. This assessment is different from most others you have taken. You do not need to study for it and there is not a single correct answer! The purpose of the assessment is to understand your skills in critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication.

Your scores will not be part of your grades but will help you and your institution identify how you can get even better at these skills.

Why are these skills important?

Critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication are among the skills employers want most. We want to make sure you are really confident in using these skills so that you can be successful in whatever you decide to do.

What is the assessment like?

- You will be asked to come up with a solution for a real-world problem.
- First, you will read several documents that provide background information about the problem.
- You will use the information in these documents to help you decide on a solution.
- After reading the documents, you will write an essay that describes your solution and your reasoning. Be sure to mention the information and facts you learned in the background information documents. Remember that there is not a single correct answer.
- You will have 60 minutes to review the documents and write your essay.
- After writing your essay, you will then be given a series of multiple choice questions that you will have 30 minutes to answer.

What happens after the assessment?

You will receive a report that shows your current mastery level in critical thinking, problem solving, and written communication. You will also receive six subscores for the different parts of the assessment to help identify your strengths and areas of opportunity.

- Your report will show your overall score for the assessment as well as your mastery level on a scale from Emerging to Advanced.
- The report will also show how your overall score compares to the average score in your institution and with similar students across the U.S.
- Individual scores are also provided for each specific skill that was evaluated. These skills include the ability to:
 - Analyze information and solve problems
 - Write clearly, accurately, and concisely
 - Follow the rules of writing including grammar
 - Understand and interpret data, including graphs and charts
 - Understand text and its meaning
 - Analyze an argument and understand the source and basis for the argument
 - For each of these skills, the report will show a comparison of your scores with the average score in your institution and with similar students across the U.S.

These data will help you and your institution focus on building these skills, which are important for your academic and career success.

Your results and scores on the assessment will be shared with you and your institution. Other students will not have access to your scores and all of your personal information will be held securely.

If you have questions about the assessment, please reach out to your institution or proctor.

Good luck!