



Expanding Use of the Critical Thinking Assessment Test (CAT): Assessing and Improving Critical Thinking

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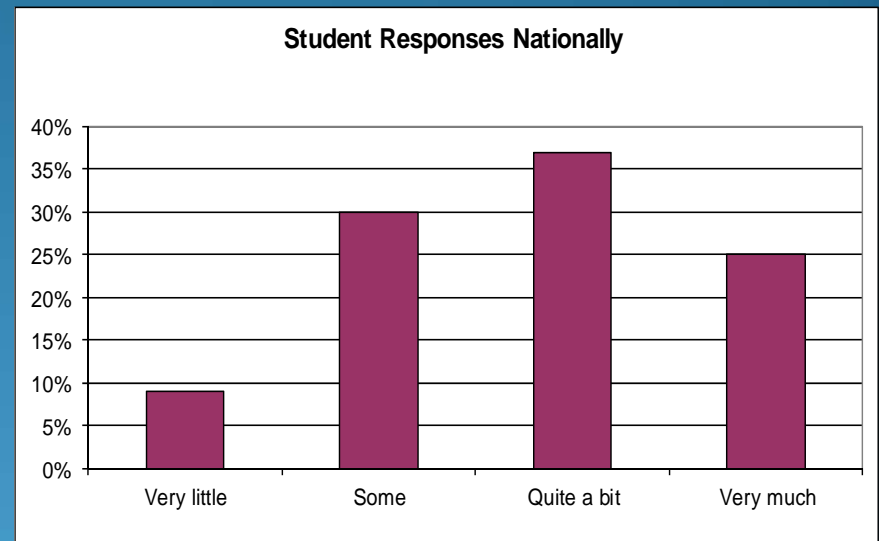
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www.CriticalThinkingTest.org

Disconnect Between What is Considered Important and What We Assess



Critical Thinking



NSSE: Coursework Emphasizes Memorizing Facts

How We Assess - Determines What Students Learn

Goals

Identify a Common Set of Critical Thinking Skills Across Disciplines

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Design Engaging and Relevant Tasks to Evaluate those Skills that Help Faculty See Student's Strengths and Weaknesses

A large, light blue downward-pointing arrow with a gradient, indicating the flow from the second goal to the third.

Nationally Disseminate the Instrument Ensuring Reliable and Consistent Scoring of Student Responses

Skills Evaluated by CAT Instrument

Evaluating Information

Separate factual information from inferences.

Interpret numerical relationships in graphs.

Understand the limitations of correlational data.

Evaluate evidence and identify inappropriate conclusions

Creative Thinking

Identify alternative interpretations for data or observations.

Identify new information that might support or contradict a hypothesis.

Explain how new information can change a problem.

Learning & Problem Solving

Separate relevant from irrelevant information.

Integrate information to solve problems.

Learn & apply new information.

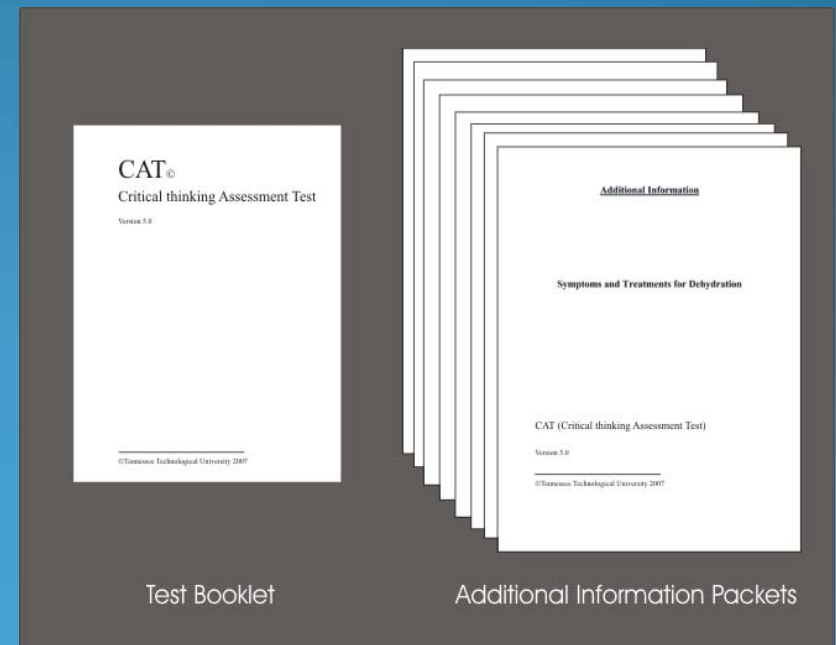
Use mathematical skills to solve real-world problems.

Communication

Communicate ideas effectively.

CAT features

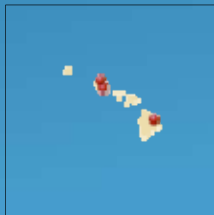
- One hour exam
- Mostly short answer essay using dynamic assessment
- Faculty scored in workshops
- Detailed scoring guide
- Reliable & Valid
- Sensitive to changes in a single course or informal learning experience



Over 250 Institutions Collaborating*



Guam



Hawaii



*Includes Over 40 NSF Projects

How is the CAT Instrument Being Used

Evaluate Program Outcomes

Evaluate High Impact Practices
in Courses

As a Model for Designing Better
Course Assessments

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