

**Assessment of CCSU General Education Learning Objectives/Outcomes (LO):
Critical Thinking (LO#4)**

A complete report on our institution-wide General Education Assessment efforts is available [here](#).

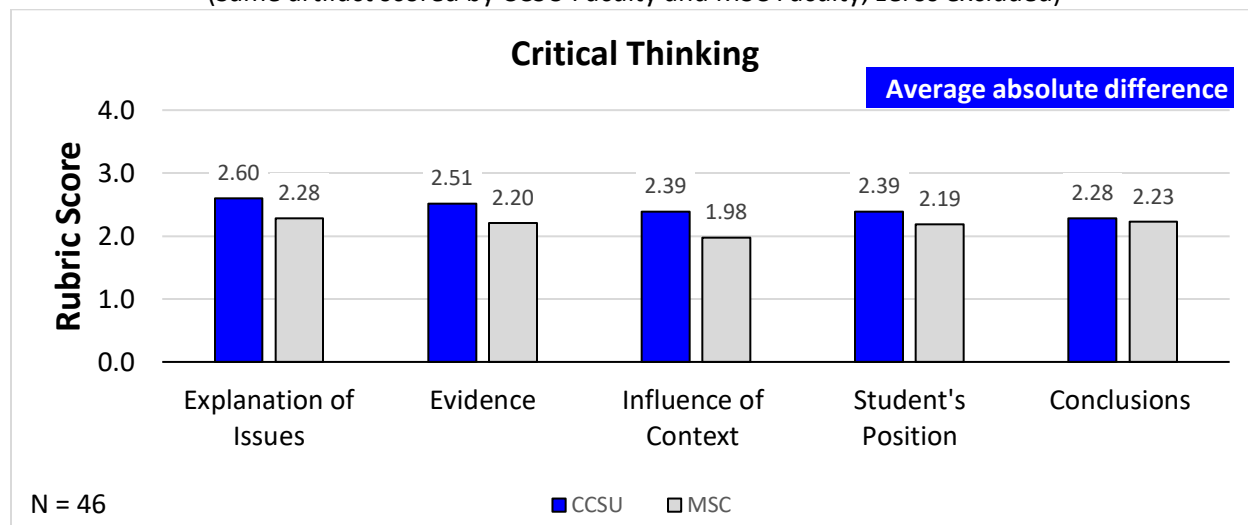
**Partnering with the Multi-State Collaborative (MSC) for General Education Assessment
Pilot Year Data (2014-2015: Year 1)**

In the 2014-15 pilot year of CCSU's General Education Assessment of Learning Objectives/Outcomes, student artifacts assessing Critical Thinking (LO#4) were collected by CCSU and assessed by both CCSU Faculty and MSC Faculty.

As reported in Figure 1 below, data clearly indicated areas of strength and weakness. In Critical Thinking, students' performance in *Explanation of Issues* and *Evidence* ranked highest, but their ability to present a specific personal *Position* or effectively identify their own and others' assumptions and relevant contexts was weaker.

**Figure 1. Multi-State Collaborative 2014-15 - Year 1
Critical Thinking (CCSU LO#4)**

(Same artifact scored by CCSU Faculty and MSC Faculty, zeros excluded)



Post-Pilot Data (2015-16 and 2016-17, Years 2 and 3)

Beyond the 2014-2015 pilot year, student artifacts addressing Critical Thinking (LO#4) continue to be collected and assessed.

Critical Thinking (Seniors)

As reported in Table 1 and Figure 2 below, our students are proficient at selecting and using information to investigate a point of view (*Evidence*). They are able to present a thesis and acknowledge different sides of an issue (*Student's Position*), and present conclusions that are

logically tied to information (*Conclusions and Related Outcomes*). However, 30% of our seniors are only beginning to identify and explore contexts and assumptions (*Influence of Context and Assumptions*). Developing this particular skill is challenging across higher education. While CCSU seniors scored an average of 2.1 in *Influence of Context and Assumptions*, the national average was 1.8.

Table 1. CCSU Faculty Scoring Critical Thinking Artifacts from CCSU Seniors vs. National MSC Results

Critical Thinking	Conclusions and Related Outcomes		Evidence		Explanation of Issues		Influence of Context and Assumptions		Student's Position		Overall Avg
	N	Avg	N	Avg	N	Avg	N	Avg	N	Avg	
Seniors only	167	2.3	167	2.4	167	2.4	167	2.1	167	2.4	2.3
Retreat 1	51	2.2	51	2.4	51	2.3	51	1.8	51	2.3	2.2
Retreat 2	42	2.3	42	2.3	42	2.3	42	2.0	42	2.2	2.2
Retreat 3	74	2.3	74	2.6	74	2.6	74	2.4	74	2.4	2.5
Nat'l - 2016	1.9		2.0		2.1		1.8		1.9		2.0
Nat'l - 2015	2.0		2.0		2.4		1.8		1.9		2.0

Figure 2. CCSU Faculty Scoring Critical Thinking Artifacts, CCSU Assessment Retreats 1, 2 & 3

