

Test Administration: Educational Testing Service Proficiency Profile (ETSPP) and Coastal Carolina University Supplemental Core Assessment

The University-Wide Assessment Committee agreed to adopt the ETSPP as one of the ways of assessing the core curriculum that is required of all Coastal Carolina University students. The ETSPP was formerly known as the Measure of Academic Proficiency and Progress (MAPP). This ETS-developed instrument has been designed to assess four core skill areas – critical thinking, reading, writing and mathematics – in a single test as a gauge of general education outcomes. The ETSPP Test allows for an integrated test of general education skills that can be compared to hundreds of other institutions to provide some useful baseline data which can then be combined with the various other assessments of the core.

However, the core curriculum covers more areas than the ETSPP test can cover, and the ETSPP test is not aligned to all the specific goals designated in the core assessments. These additional core assessments are also administered through the supplemental “core assessment” survey administered in addition to the ETSPP.

Each spring semester an attempt is made to capture, for assessment, as many seniors in select “capstone courses” for the majors, as possible. The University has chosen the short form of the ETSPP (a maximum of 40 minutes long) in order to minimize any interference with normal class work and to make for easy administration. The supplemental core assessment should not take more than 10 minutes of class time.

Faculty administering the two assessment instruments are advised that they need not be administered in the same class period. Test packets are delivered to participating instructors approximately eight weeks after the start of spring semester classes. Each packet contains sufficient ETSPP test books, ETSPP answer sheets, supplemental core assessment surveys, administration instructions and envelopes for returning the test materials to the Office of Institutional Research, Assessment and Analysis (IRA&A). Test administrators are reminded that the ETSPP is a timed test.

Once all materials are returned to the IRA&A Office, the ETSPP answer sheets and booklets are sent to Educational Testing Service for processing. The IRA&A Office collects and compiles the data from the supplemental core assessment in-house. Data from both testing instruments is further analyzed by the Director of the Core Curriculum and results are included in the annual report for that unit.