



Goal 2: Critical Thinking

Fall 2023

Method: Course-embedded assessment in general education courses designated for Goal 2, scored by course instructors using adopted rubric

N = 146

Rubric: Goal 2 Literature

The objectives within Goal 2 – Critical Thinking and Reasoning are nested in nature. Students can receive a maximum of 3 total points. Students receive a point for summarizing, a second for analyzing, and a third for formulating. These objectives are nested in nature such that students must be capable of summarizing an argument in order to analyze it and students must be capable of both summarizing and analyzing arguments in order to formulate one of their own. Precisely what it means to have successfully summarized, analyzed, and formulated an argument is specified in the below rubric.

Students will summarize the logical form of arguments For a student to count as having successfully summarized an argument, they have to be capable of accurately identifying the premises and conclusion(s) of the argument, and the type of argument it is (e.g. deductive, inductive, abductive).	0/1
Students will analyze the logical form of arguments For a student to count as having successfully analyzed an argument, they have to be capable of sufficiently explaining how premises lead to conclusion(s); whether the argument is logically valid and sound; and - if not - whether the argument exhibits a common logical fallacy.	0/1
Students will formulate precise, discursive arguments For a student to count as having successfully formulated an argument, they have to be capable of logically utilizing premises to lead to a novel, well-supported conclusion, and display an understanding of why they think the argument is logically valid and sound.	0/1

% Achieving Ratings of 0 in Each Category		
Rating	N	%
Summarize	31	21%
Analyze	61	42%
Formulate	109	75%

% Achieving Ratings of 1 in Each Category		
Rating	N	%
Summarize	115	79%
Analyze	85	58%
Formulate	37	25%

Summative Score: % Achieving Total Scores of 0, 1, 2, or 3		
Total Rating	N	%
0	27	18.75%
1	33	22.92%
2	52	36.11%
3	32	22.22%

Method: Question on Graduate-to-Be survey regarding students' perceptions of how well their undergraduate coursework developed their ability to do critical analysis.

December 2023

	Great Deal	Much	Somewhat	Little	Very Little
Critical Analysis	43.1%	36.6%	17.3%	1.9%	0.9%

Method: Question on Alumni Survey regarding students' perceptions of how well their undergraduate coursework developed their critical thinking skills.

Spring 2023

	Very Much	Quite a Bit	Some	Very Little
Critical Thinking	42.7%	39.0%	12.8%	5.5%

