



# SAILS Summary Comparison

## CORE 110 (Fall 2011) vs Capstone (2014-2015)

In 2011-2012, Abilene Christian University (ACU) began its implementation of *Pursuit*, the Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP). The plan envisioned three specific, well-defined curricular goals, each clearly articulated in student learning outcomes. The first student-learning outcome is “Students will understand and appropriately use scholarly sources.” More specifically, students will:

1. Determine the nature and extent of the information needed,
2. Access needed information effectively and efficiently, and
3. Use information ethically and legally.

In order to assess student progress at achieving these outcomes, the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) was given to students enrolled in CORE 110 (Cornerstone) during the first three weeks of class and then repeated during the senior capstone course. Scores for students entering in fall 2011 were compared to the scores of students enrolled in Capstone experiences during the fall and spring of 2014-2015. Overall scores, standard error, and true group average scores for each year are compared on the next two pages. In addition to a comparison between the groups, scores for ACU, scores for institutions of the same type (Masters), and scores for all institutions are provided for comparisons.

Initially, students entering in fall 2011 performed *about the same* as the Institution Type benchmark on 4 skills sets, and *worse than* the institution type on the remaining 4 skills sets. After 3 years, comparison data shows the following results:

- Overall scores have increased significantly.
- Standard errors have decreased, showing student scores have less variability and are performing more consistently on the SAILS skills sets.
- Capstone students at Abilene Christian University performed **BETTER THAN** the institution-type benchmark on ALL SAILS Skills Sets, including the following:
  - Developing a Research Strategy
  - Selecting Finding Tools
  - Searching
  - Using Finding Tool Features
  - Retrieving Sources
  - Evaluating Sources
  - Documenting Sources
  - Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues.
- This group of entering students in CORE 110 in fall 2011 did NOT perform better than the Institution-type benchmark on ANY skill set.

# SAILS Summary Data— Cornerstone 2011-2012

Detailed results from the Fall 2011 SAILS Skills Sets and alignment with *Pursuit* objectives are found below:

Fall 2011	SAILS Skill Sets*	Abilene Christian University <i>n</i> =439**	Institution Type: Masters <i>n</i> =23,417	All Institutions <i>n</i> =59,397
<b>Pursuit Objective</b>	<b>Overall Scores, Standard Error, and True Group Average Score</b>			
1.1.A	1. Developing a Research Strategy	487 ± 12 (475, 499)	501 +2 (499, 503)	497 +1 (496,498)
	2. Selecting Finding Tools	510 ± 16 (494, 526)	524 ± 2 (522, 526)	518 +1 (517,519)
	3. Searching	465 ±12 (453, 477)	482 +2 (480, 484)	478 +1 (477, 479)
	4. Using Finding Tool Features	528 ± 17 (511, 545)	546 +2 (544, 548)	541 +1 (540, 542)
1.1.B	5. Retrieving Sources	525 ± 18 (507, 543)	560 +2 (558, 562)	553 +1 (551, 555)
	6. Evaluating Sources	472 ± 13 (459, 485)	486 +2 (484, 488)	478 +1 (477, 479)
1.1.C	7. Documenting Sources	438 ± 17 (421, 455)	461 +2 (459, 463)	455 +1 (454, 456)
	8. Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues	443 ± 14 (429, 457)	453 +2 (451, 455)	448 +1 (447, 449)

\* The Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) is a knowledge test with multiple-choice questions targeting a variety of information literacy skills. Questions on the SAILS test are based directly on two documents authored by the Association of College and Research Libraries. Project SAILS is located at Kent State University in Ohio.

\*\*439 students completed the test out of 875 students enrolled in CORE 110.

# SAILS Summary Data— Capstone 2014-2015



Detailed results from students enrolled in Capstone during Fall 2014 and Spring 2015. SAILS Skills Sets results and alignment with *Pursuit* objectives are found below:

2014-2015	SAILS Skill Sets*	Abilene Christian University <i>n</i> =351**	Institution Type: Masters <i>n</i> =27,376	All Institutions <i>n</i> =59,589
<i>Pursuit</i> Objective	Overall Scores, Standard Error, and True Group Average Score			
1.1.A	1. Developing a Research Strategy	541 ± 6 (535, 547)	509 + 1 (508, 510)	507 + 0 (507, 507)
	2. Selecting Finding Tools	542 ± 7 (535, 549)	515 + 1 (514, 516)	511 + 1 (510, 512)
	3. Searching	528 ± 6 (522, 534)	486 + 0 (486, 486)	486 + 0 (486, 486)
	4. Using Finding Tool Features	556 ± 8 (548, 564)	535 + 1 (534, 536)	532 + 1 (531, 533)
1.1.B	5. Retrieving Sources	570 ± 8 (562, 578)	521 + 1 (520, 522)	519 + 1 (518, 520)
	6. Evaluating Sources	515 ± 7 (508, 522)	473 + 1 (472, 474)	469 + 0 (469, 469)
1.1.C	7. Documenting Sources	535 ± 8 (527, 543)	492 + 1 (491, 493)	487 + 1 (486, 488)
	8. Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues	512 ± 6 (506, 518)	471 + 1 (470, 472)	471 + 1 (470, 472)

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\*\* 351 students completed the test out of 858 students enrolled in Capstone courses.