Results of the Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills (SAILS) for University of Central Oklahoma
Administration: Spring 2010
Report Date: June 2010

Executive Summary:

In the spring of 2010, the UCO Library recruited 553 UCO students to participate in the SAILS Information Literacy test. SAILS is an assessment tool meant to measure Information Literacy skills. Generally students take the test once, but it can also be structured as a pre- and post- test to measure the efficacy of an instruction program. Students were recruited from classes that scheduled a library instruction session in the Spring 2010 semester. Some classes were subject-specific, upper division level courses, and some were lower level freshman and sophomore courses. Most participants took a pre- and post- test, though due to scheduling conflicts, some only took the test once, prior to their instruction session. This was the first year for this instrument at UCO, so there are some anomalies to address first. Only one College of Business course participated and they were only able to take the test prior to instruction. This may explain their poor showing in the results. Most other participants were able to take both the pre- and post-test. Students self-identified their disciplines on the instrument, and discipline categories are prescribed by SAILS and do not line up exactly with UCO's disciplines. For instance, based on the classes that participated in SAILS, Health Sciences correlates most to biology and nursing students.

Overall, UCO's SAILS scores closely mirrored the results of peer institutions, with a few trends outstanding. The summary of results is as follows. Students at University of Central Oklahoma performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark on the following SAILS Skill Sets:
- Developing a Research Strategy
- Selecting Finding Tools
- Searching
- Using Finding Tool Features
- Retrieving Sources
- Evaluating Sources
- Documenting Sources
- Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues

Below are the skill sets ordered by performance, from best to worst. Skills set scores cannot be directly compared to each other. Instead, the ordering reflects the magnitude of difference between UCO's mean and the institution-type benchmark mean. The mean and standard deviation of all of the administrations are calculated in the benchmark for each skill set. The ranking in each of the following categories is the distance of UCO's mean from the benchmark mean as a fraction of the standard deviation.
1. Best Selecting Finding Tools
2. Using Finding Tool Features
3. Retrieving Sources
4. Searching
5. Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues
6. Documenting Sources
7. Developing a Research Strategy
8. Worst Evaluating Sources

When results are examined more closely for variances between student status and disciplines, trends emerge. Education consistently outperformed other disciplines at UCO in Information Literacy skills overall. This could be attributed to the fact that the College of Education and Professional Studies (CEPS) schedules more Information Literacy sessions at the UCO Library than any other college, and they sometimes schedule more than one session per class. CEPS may also have a higher occurrence of concurrent undergraduate/graduate enrollment in its classes. Social Science disciplines followed at a distant second in overall performance, and Health Sciences underperformed

on most skills except documenting sources. The College of Mathematics and Science schedules the smallest number of Library Instruction sessions. As to conclusions on the Library Instruction Program itself, most of the data shows that UCO students are on par with peer institutions. However, UCO's success rate on Selecting Finding Tools indicate successful classification and navigation to the library's finding tools, while lower scores on Developing a Research Strategy and Evaluating Sources may indicate a need for more emphasis on teaching those skills. More comments and suggestions for improvement follow each skill set result below.

1. SAILS Skill Set: Developing a Research Strategy
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the UCO-average-student benchmark:*
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Additional Local Notes and Suggestions for Improvement:

> Freshman, Sophomore, Senior, and Business and Health Sciences students performed slightly below average compared to both peer institutions and the UCO average. Suggestions for improvement: increase outreach and LI to those populations.

- Education and Other performed above average—Graduate students are assumed to make up most of the Other category. Education utilizes the LI Program.

2. SAILS Skill Set: Selecting Finding Tools
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma performed better than the institution-type benchmark on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Major: Education

Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the UCO-average-student benchmark:*
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Additional Local Notes and Recommendations:
- Sophomore, Junior, and Other in the disciplines Business, Education, Social Sciences and Other/Undecided performed above average. Our databases page is fairly well designed for identifying and accessing finding tools. The larger success rate could be a reflection of that.

3. SAILS Skill Set: Searching
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed better than the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Major: Social Sciences/Psychology

Students at University of Central Oklahoma performed *about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Other, Undecided

Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed worse than the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Senior

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the UCO-average-student benchmark:*
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

4. SAILS Skill Set: Using Finding Tool Features
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the UCO-average-student benchmark:*
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

5. SAILS Skill Set: Retrieving Sources
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central *Oklahoma performed better than the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set
for the following demographic groups:
Major: Education

Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this
skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This
Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the*
UCO-average-student benchmark:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Additional Local Notes and Recommendations:
- Education utilizes the LI program and may contain graduate students, which may have impacted their higher score.

- Business and Health Science students underperformed in comparison to national peers and UCO as a whole. Suggestions for improvement: increase outreach and LI to those populations. Neither Health Sciences nor Business are heavy users of the LI program.

6. SAILS Skill Set: Evaluating Sources
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed better than the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set
for the following demographic groups:
Major: Education

Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this
skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Sophomore, Junior, Other
Major: Business, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed worse than the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set
for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Senior

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This
Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the*
UCO-average-student benchmark:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Additional Local Notes and Recommendations:
- Education utilized the LI program and may contain graduate students, which may have impacted their higher score.

7. SAILS Skill Set: Documenting Sources
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the UCO-average-student benchmark:*
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided
Results By

Additional Local Notes and Recommendations:

- Sophomores, Seniors, and Social Science Students performed slightly under national peers and other UCO students on this skill.

- Juniors, Business, Education, and Health Sciences students slightly outperformed national peers and other UCO students. These disciplines may put a higher premium on correct source citation.

8. SAILS Skill Set: Understanding Economic, Legal, and Social Issues
Summary of Results
University of Central Oklahoma Compared to Other Masters Institutions, by Demographic Characteristics
Students at University of Central Oklahoma *performed about the same as the institution-type benchmark* on this skill set for the following demographic groups:
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Demographic Groups within University of Central Oklahoma Compared to the UCO Overall Performance on This Skill Set Within University of Central Oklahoma, the following groups *performed about the same as the UCO-average-student benchmark:*
Class Standing: Freshman, Sophomore, Junior, Senior, Other
Major: Business, Education, Health Sciences, Social Sciences/Psychology, Other, Undecided

Additional Local Notes and Recommendations:

- Education and Social Science students were the only populations to score even slightly above national peers or other UCO students on this skill. Student status seemed to have no significant effect. All disciplines and statuses have room to improve. Suggested actions are to include more information and training on plagiarism and its avoidance both in the LI program and campus-wide.