



# PRAIRIE VIEW A&M UNIVERSITY

A Member of the Texas A&M University System

April 20, 2009

Dear Professors Brown and Henson, **(DRAFT)**

Although we have assessed core curriculum competencies through the MAPP and CLA exams, another measure is needed to assess further the critical thinking, reading, and writing skills of our students. Doing so will help us to pin point where students are weakest and in need of improvement. The data collected may also be used to support Prairie View's Quality Enhancement Plan (QEP) currently being developed.

The Core Curriculum Council has worked hard to create an assessment instrument that requires students to respond to a writing assignment and prompt in a 50-minute setting. This examination will in no way affect grades in your course and is in *no way* being used to assess any particular College, instructor, or set of students. Two 4000-level courses were selected at random by computer for each College at the University. Your courses were selected for the **School of Architecture**.

ARCH 4433 P01 TR 9:30-10:50 a.m., Instructor: Brown, Marshall  
CONS 4553 P01 Henson TR 1-3:20 p.m., Instructor: Henson, Alfred

Although we understand that this will interrupt your schedule and teaching of your course, the following expectations have been established:

- 1) Devote one **50-minute period** from your course **between Tuesday April 21-Wednesday April 29** to administer the examination instrument.
- 2) Administer the exam with no previous prompting or explanation of the topic or sources given. Allow no discussion of the topic until all exams have been collected.
- 3) Complete the coversheet provided, which asks about number of students enrolled, number of students in attendance for assessment, date of exam, etc.
- 4) Gather the exams in the provided envelope(s) and return to **Ms. Dana Kumar** in **Juvenile Justice & Psychology #265** by **5 p.m.** the next day.

The Prairie View A&M Administration, Core Team, and the Core Curriculum Council appreciate your sacrifice, dedication, and support for our efforts to improve the quality of our Core Curriculum.

Sincerely,

Dr. E. Joahanne Thomas-Smith  
Provost and Senior Vice President  
for Academic Affairs

Dr. James M. Palmer  
Core Curriculum Committee  
SACS Core Team



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## Instructions for Administering Assessment Exam

1. Have on hand a stapler, clock or watch for helping students keep track of time, and extra pencils (provided by the Writing Center).
2. Read the following statement to your students on the day of the assessment.

Dear Students,

Prairie View A&M University has strived for excellence for over a century. To improve student learning, it must determine how much it has helped a student to grow academically during the time that the student was enrolled at the University. In an effort to complete its task and to identify strengths and weaknesses, you are being asked to help your alma mater by spending the next 50-minutes completing a writing assignment using the knowledge and skills you have obtained throughout your education.

This writing assignment will in no way affect your course grade or graduation. It will be used as a tool to identify ways to improve education for future Prairie View Panthers.

You are being given a packet of containing a writing prompt about Universal Health Care in the United States. Read the instructions on your own carefully, review the suggested timeline, and read the sources given for you to incorporate into your essay.

When you have completed the essay to the very best of your ability, please return all materials to your instructor. The Prairie View A&M University family thanks you for your valuable contribution today.

3. Pass out the instrument to each student, asking them to place their classification and date of graduation on the coversheet. Do not ask students to reveal their name or student ID.
4. Place the time on the board and ask students to start the exam.
5. Help students keep track of their time by making note of remaining time on the board at least two but not more than four times. Limit interruption as much as is possible.
6. Collect students' work, staple together as needed, and place them in the envelope(s) provided.
7. Take student work to Ms. Dana Kumar in the Juvenile Justice & Psychology Building, Room 265, the following day. Ms. Kumar will have a sign-in sheet for envelopes.

Thank you for your cooperation and support.



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