



## Critical thinking Assessment Test

# CAT.®

*Closing the Loop in Assessment  
and the Improvement of Learning*



- ★ Program & project evaluation
- ★ Train the trainer workshops
- ★ Analyses & reports

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Any opinions, findings, and conclusions or recommendations expressed in this material are those of the authors and do not necessarily reflect the views of the National Science Foundation.

**TU** Tennessee Tech  
University

Tennessee Technological University  
A Constituent University of the Tennessee Board of Regents  
R039-000-09: An EEO/AA/Title IX/Section 504/ADA University

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**Center for Assessment & Improvement of Learning**

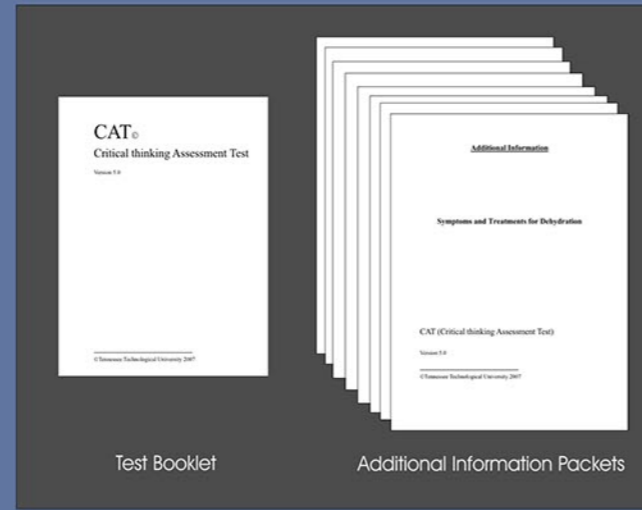
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**TU** Tennessee Tech  
University

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## Features

- ◆ Short answer essay test
- ◆ Faculty scored
- ◆ One hour test
- ◆ Detailed scoring guide
- ◆ Valid
- ◆ Reliable
- ◆ Sensitive to course effects
- ◆ Suitable for value-added analyses
- ◆ National norms
- ◆ Appropriate for all student levels



## Evaluates Critical Thinking Skills Valued by Faculty and Employers

### Bloom's Taxonomy of Cognitive Skills

Evaluation  
Synthesis  
Analysis  
Application  
Comprehension

← Target of CAT

Information (rote retention)

## Skills Assessed by CAT Instrument

### Evaluating Information and Other Points of View

- ◆ Separate factual information from inferences.
- ◆ Interpret numerical relationships in graphs.
- ◆ Understand the limitations of correlational data.
- ◆ Evaluate evidence and identify inappropriate conclusions.

### Creative Thinking

- ◆ Identify alternative interpretations for data or observations.
- ◆ Identify new information that might support or contradict a hypothesis.
- ◆ Explain how new information can change a problem.

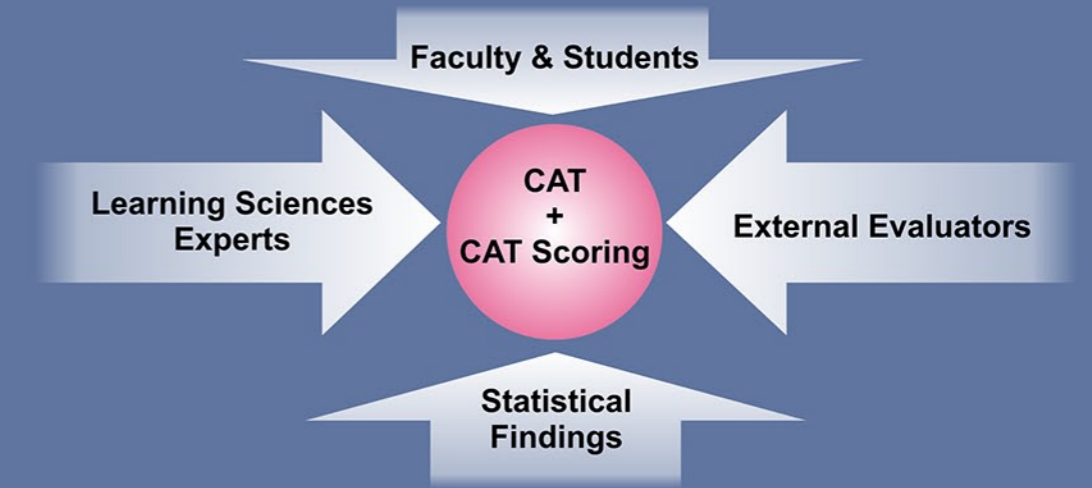
### Learning and Problem Solving

- ◆ Separate relevant from irrelevant information.
- ◆ Integrate information to solve problems.
- ◆ Learn and apply new information.
- ◆ Use mathematical skills to solve real-world problems.

### Communication

- ◆ Communicate ideas effectively.

## Six-Year Development Process

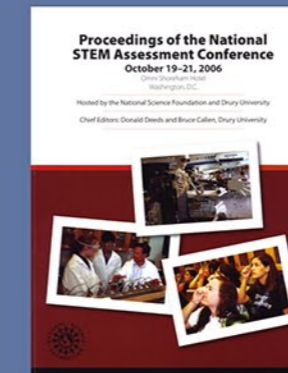


### Institutions Involved in Development

Howard University  
Tennessee Technological University  
University of Colorado  
University of Hawaii

University of Southern Maine  
University of Texas  
University of Washington

## Over 40 Universities & Community Colleges Now Collaborating



## Benefits of a Faculty Scored Test

