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Sep 25th, 1:30 PM - 2:45 PM

# Using iSkills and SAILS to Assess Information Literacy: What Do We Know and What Do We Do Now?

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# Using iSkills & SAILS to Assess Information Literacy

*What do we know & what do we do now?*

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Jennifer Campbell Meier

Marina Slemmons

Shawn Tonner

North Georgia College & State University

September 25, 2009



# Outline

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- ❑ NGCSU, SACS QEP & IL
- ❑ Large scale testing
- ❑ Results after 2 years
- ❑ Using results to improve
- ❑ Questions & discussion

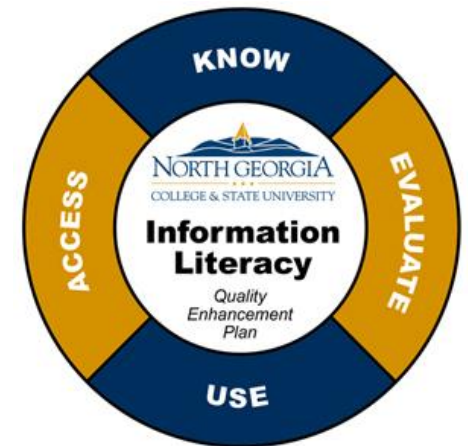


Information Literacy = Informed Leaders

**IL=IL**

Quality Enhancement Plan

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Getting information off the  
Internet is like taking a  
drink from a fire hydrant.

Mitchell Kapor

Background image adapted from  
[www.flickr.com/photos/josephrobertson/127758523](http://www.flickr.com/photos/josephrobertson/127758523)



# What is the Quality Enhancement Plan?

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- QEP is part of SACCS reaffirmation
- It must be
  - focused on student learning
  - tied to the institutional mission
  - supported by sufficient resources
  - measurable in terms of student outcomes
- NGCSU's QEP is Information Literacy
- Uses the 5 ACRL Standards as Outcomes

IL = IL

**Information Literacy = Informed Leaders**

Discipline Specific

Higher Order Concepts

General Education

Lower Order concepts

Library

Technology

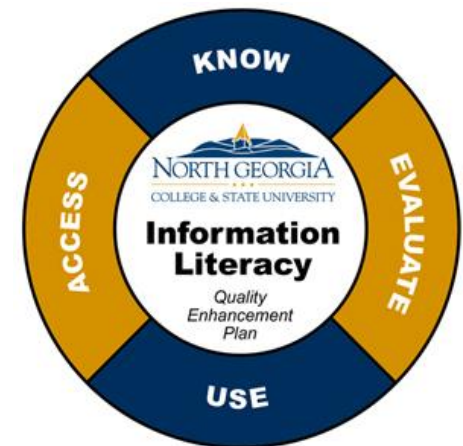
Faculty

# What is IL?

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□ Our definition:

- *Information literacy is the ability to **know** when information is needed and to **access**, **evaluate**, and **use** information effectively and ethically*







<b>NGCSU Learning Outcome</b>	<b>ACRL Information Literacy Standard</b>	<b>Know</b>	<b>Access</b>	<b>Evaluate</b>	<b>Use</b>	<b>Legal/ Ethical</b>
<b>The student will communicate effectively using multiple literacies and forms of expression.</b>			✓		✓	
<b>The student will demonstrate analytic, contextual, and holistic thinking.</b>		✓	✓	✓		
<b>The student will engage in integrative learning.</b>		✓		✓		
<b>The student will reflect critically and take informed action individually as a citizen.</b>					✓	
<b>The student will analyze ethical interactions in local and global communities.</b>						✓

# Large Scale Assessment with Standardized Tests

Shawn Tonner

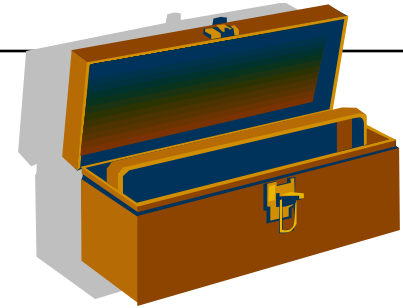
North Georgia College & State University

September 25, 2009



# NGCSU's IL Assessment Tool Box

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- Project SAILS
- ETS iSkills (aka ICT)
- Information Literacy Test - James Madison University
- Embedded Assessment



project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

- ❑ Kent State initiative 2001-present
- ❑ Mapped to ACRL IL Competencies
- ❑ Reliability .80+ & Inter-rater .65 to .80
- ❑ 60,000 students tested at 135 institutions



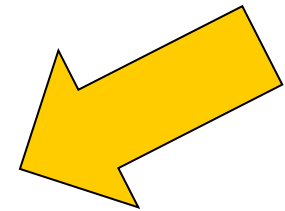
project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

## **JUST THE FACTS**

- ❑ \$3 test & \$2,000 per year cap
- ❑ Simple requirements for IT & proctor
- ❑ 35 minute multiple choice test
- ❑ Aggregate results only
- ❑ NGCSU Pilot test Fall 2007
- ❑ **NGCSU adopts to use in ENGL 1102**



**- 520 students tested to date**



project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

## **Mapped to ACRL Competencies**

- ❑ Standard 1 – Know – 37 items
- ❑ Standard 2 – Access – 73 items
- ❑ Standard 3 – Evaluate – 20 items
- ❑ Standard 4 – Use – Not tested
- ❑ Standard 5 – Understand – 27 items



project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

## Sample Question

You need to get information on an event that took place two days ago. Where are you most likely to find information about the event?

### CHOOSE ONE ANSWER

- Book
- Dissertation
- Journal article
- Magazine
- Newspaper



project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

## Up & Downsides

- Simple & simplistic
- No individual results just aggregate  
De-motivator
- Manageable & reasonable  
\$+Time+Equipment+Staff
- Great support & national recognition



NSWER



project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills

To learn more about Project Sails

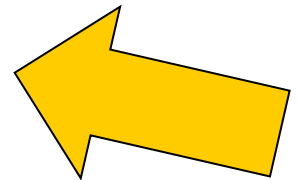
[www.projectsails.org](http://www.projectsails.org)

# Information & Communication Technology (ICT) Fluency

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- Framework 2002 global initiative
- Critical thinking & ACRL IL based
- Beta tests California State University 2005
- NGCSU pilot tests Fall 2007
- **NGCSU Adopts ICT (Advanced) for seniors. 749 students tested to date.**





*ITC* **iSkills™**

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## **JUST THE FACTS**

- Individual results & aggregate data
- 90 minutes in 1 or 2 sessions with demographics prior
- \$22 to \$33/test
- Web based & modest IT & proctor intensive
- 7 skill areas
- Solid link to ACRL IL Competencies

## Sample ICT Literacy Skills

**Access**

## Performance Variables

*Quality of  
Search Items*

*Quality of  
Search Results*

*Quality of  
Syntax*

*Use of  
Delimiting Terms*

**Evaluate**

*Quality of  
Selected Resources*

# iSkills™ Skill Areas

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- ❑ Define
- ❑ Access
- ❑ Evaluate
- ❑ Manage
- ❑ Integrate
- ❑ Create
- ❑ Communicate





**iSkills™**

**CERTIPORT**



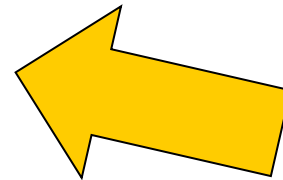
## **EVOLUTION OF THE TEST**

- 2005-2007 – ETS ITC
- 2008 – ETS re-brands as iSkills
- 2009 – *New* ETS & CERTIPORT partnership
- Fall 2009 Beta iCritical Thinking released



## Downsides

- *Increased price - \$37/test*
- *Merged Core & Advanced tests*
- *Intensive technology requirement*
- *Intensive proctoring requirement*
- **Fall 2009 NGCSU abandons ETS CERTIPORT  
iCritical Thinking**





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Fall 2009 NGCSU Pilots *ILT*  
Information Literacy Test

 THE CENTER FOR  
**ASSESSMENT & RESEARCH**  
STUDIES



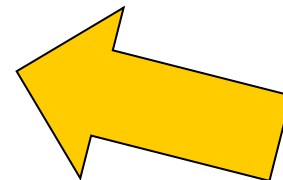
James Madison University





## **ILT - Just the Facts**

- \$7 per test
- Multiple choice
- *Mapped to ACRL IL Competencies*
- *Low technology & proctoring requirements*
- *55-60 minutes*
- *Sept 2009 NGCSU adopts ILT*



# ILT Questions & ACRL Competencies

## **Content Area**

- Standard 1 – Know – 12 items
- Standard 2 – Access – 19 items
- Standard 3 – Evaluate – 19 items
- Standard 4 – Use – Not tested
- Standard 5 – Understand – 10 items

## **Cognitive Level**

- Knowledge – 41 items
- Application – 19 items



# Summary of Testing Experience

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- Flexibility needed
- High return on investment with rich data
- Buy-in battle
- Test burn out & test anxiety



*Results So Far*



project

**SAILS**®

Standardized Assessment of Information Literacy Skills




# SAILS Pilot – Fall 2007

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- Baseline data
- 4 sections of ENGL 1101
- Given in August
- All paper and pencil
- Total of 91 students took test
- 78 useable responses

# Fall 2007 SAILS





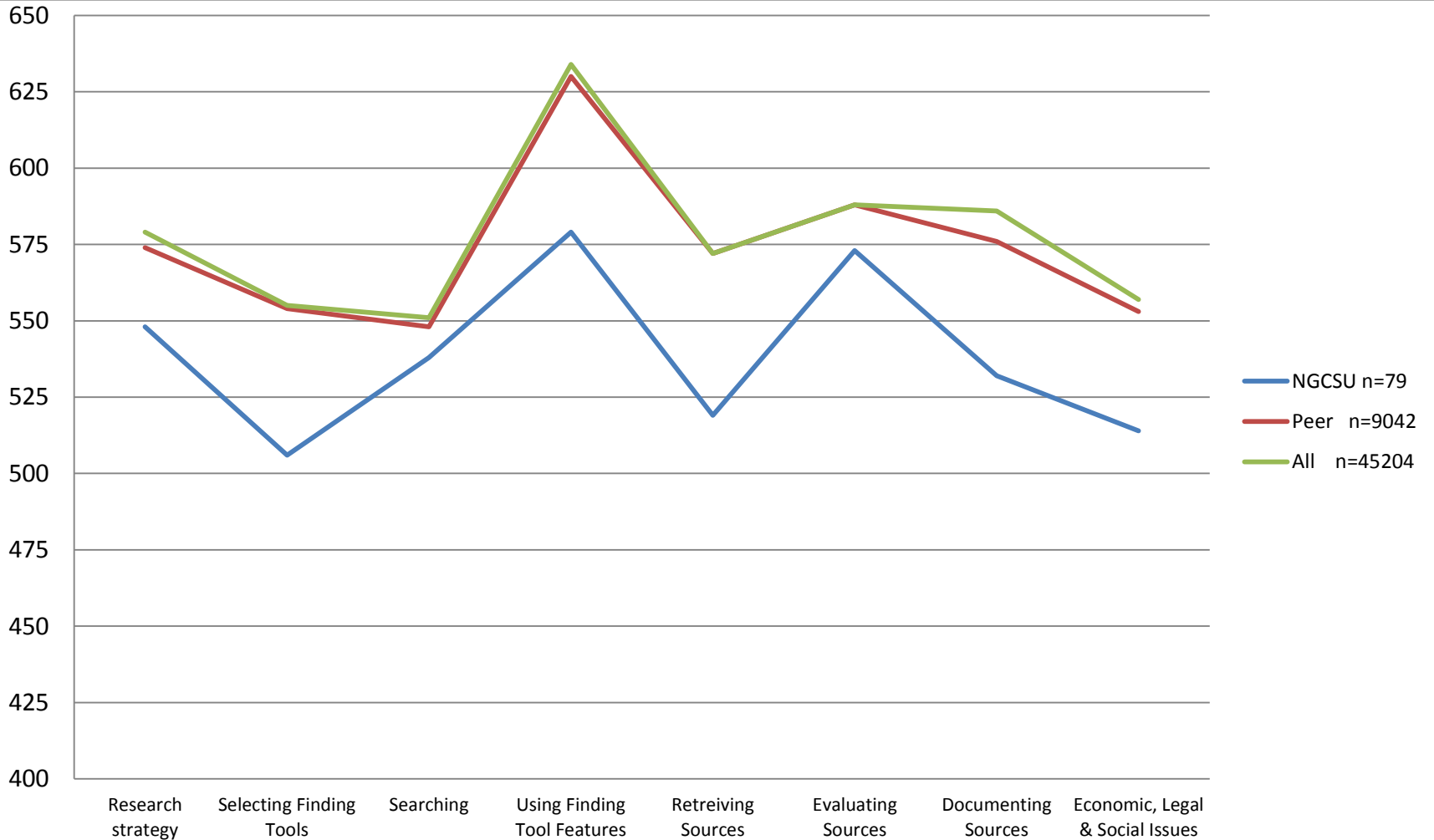
# SAILS Pilot – Spring 2008

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- ❑ Pilot giving at end of ENG 1102
- ❑ 4 sections of ENGL 1102
- ❑ Given in April
- ❑ Use of computerized version for 2 sections
- ❑ 79 useable responses



## Spring 2008 SAILS





# SAILS – Fall 2008

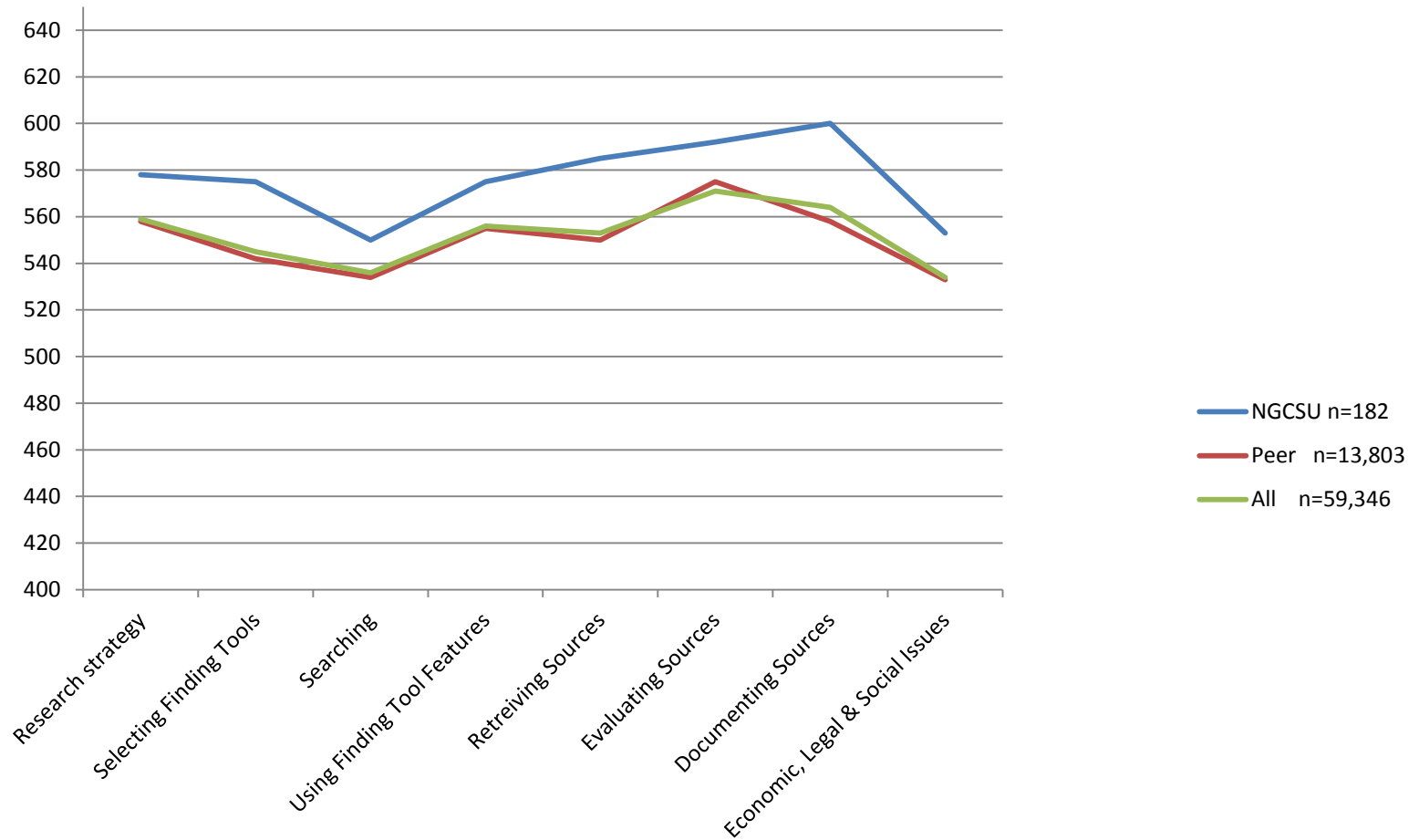
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- 3 Sections of ENG 1102 in Fall
- Included 1 Honors Section
- Given in November
- All on computer
- N=64
- Greater percentage of sophomores & juniors

## Fall 2008 SAILS



# Spring 2009 SAILS

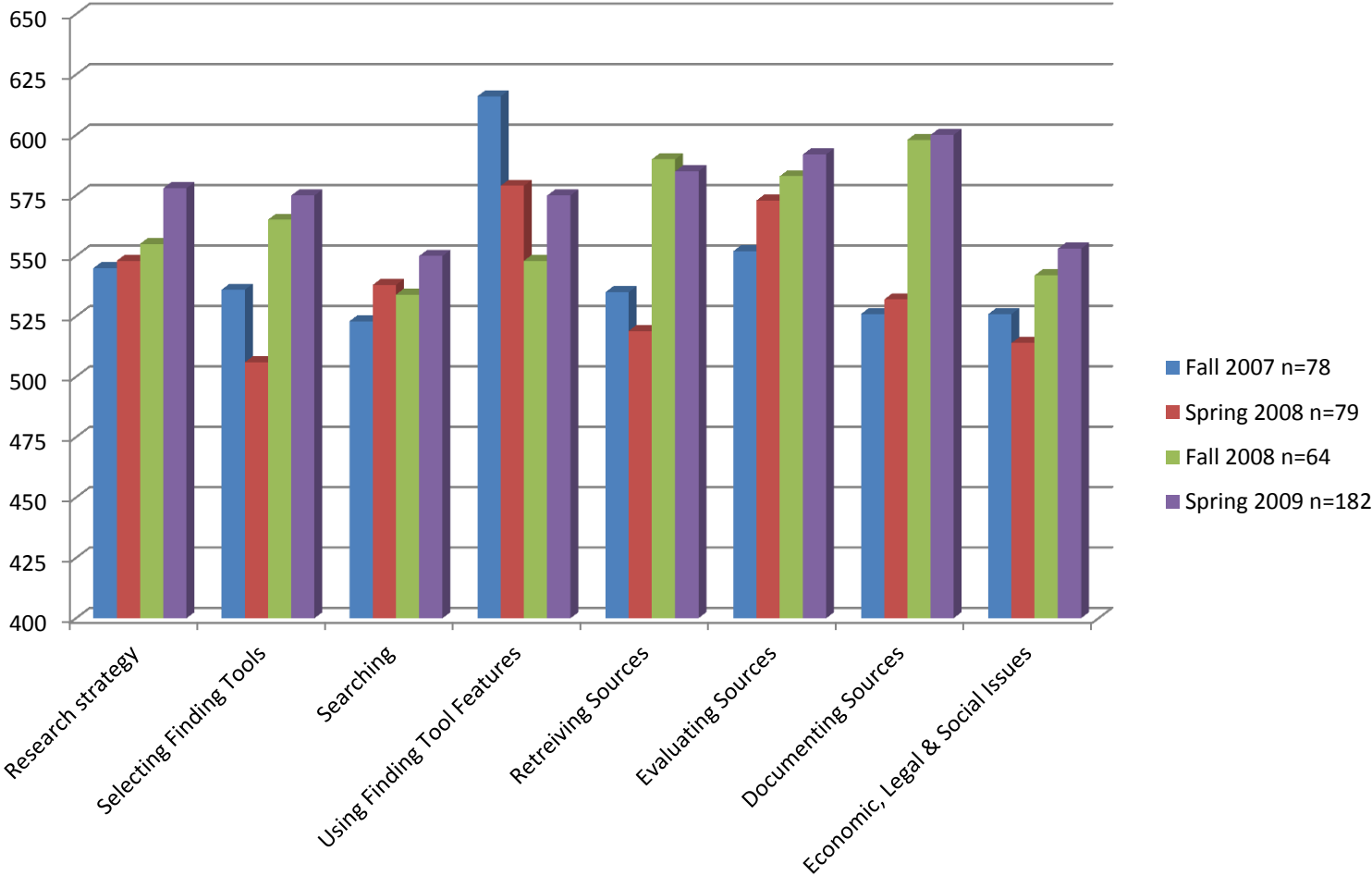


# Class Standing

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	Fall 07 Pilot ENGL 1101	Spring 08 Pilot ENGL 1102	Fall 08 ENGL 1102	Spring 2009 ENGL 1102
Freshman	71 (91%)	48 (60.8%)	17 (26.6%)	129 (70.9%)
Sophomores	4 (5.1%)	26 (32.9%)	33 (51.6%)	39 (21.4%)
Juniors	1 (1.3%)	4 (5.1%)	12 (18.8%)	11 (6.0%)
Seniors				3 (1/6%)
Total Sample	78	79	64	182

# Comparison across time





***iSkills***<sup>™</sup>



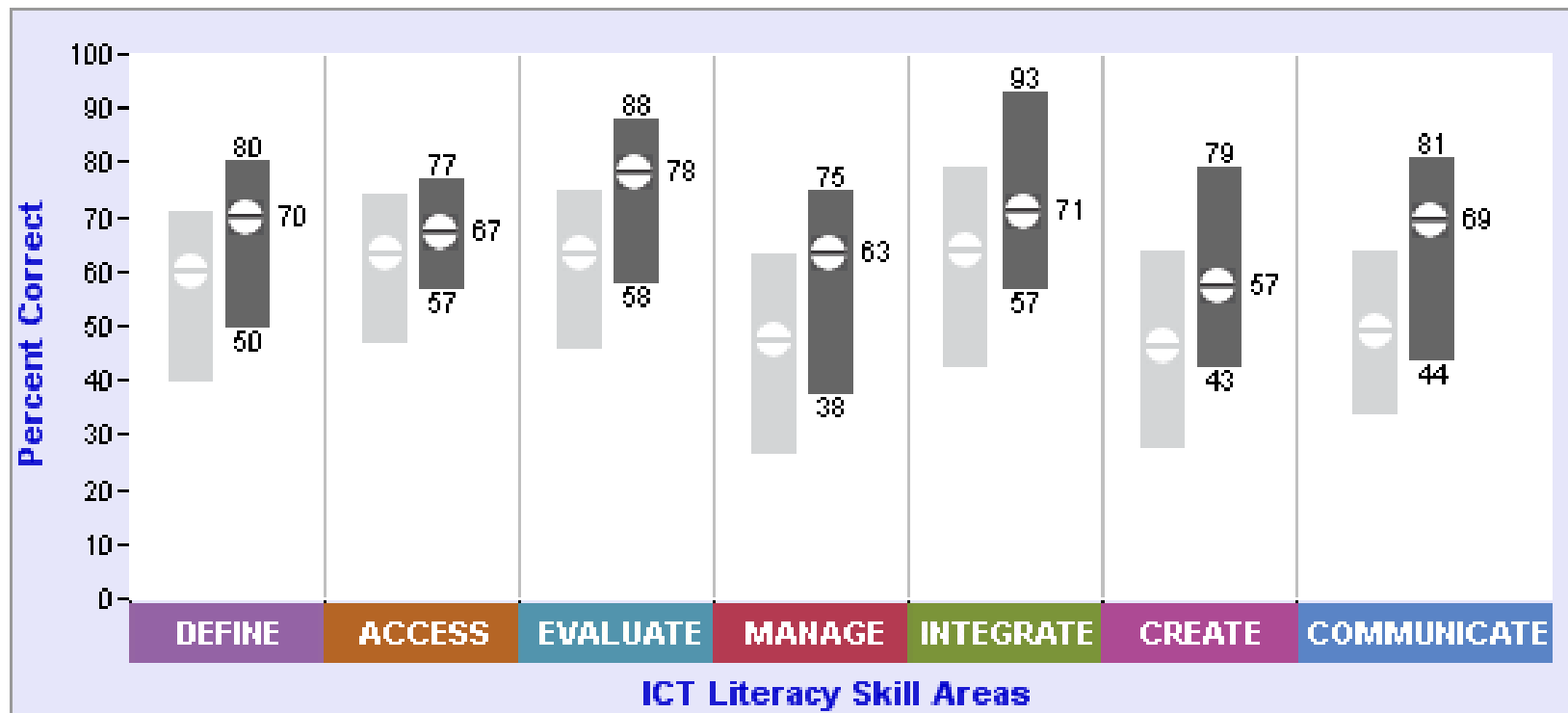
# *iSkills*<sup>TM</sup> Pilot – Fall 2007

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- Baseline data
- 3 Sections of POLS/CRJU and 2 sections of upper division English courses
- Given in August/Early September
- Total of 88 students with 83 usable data

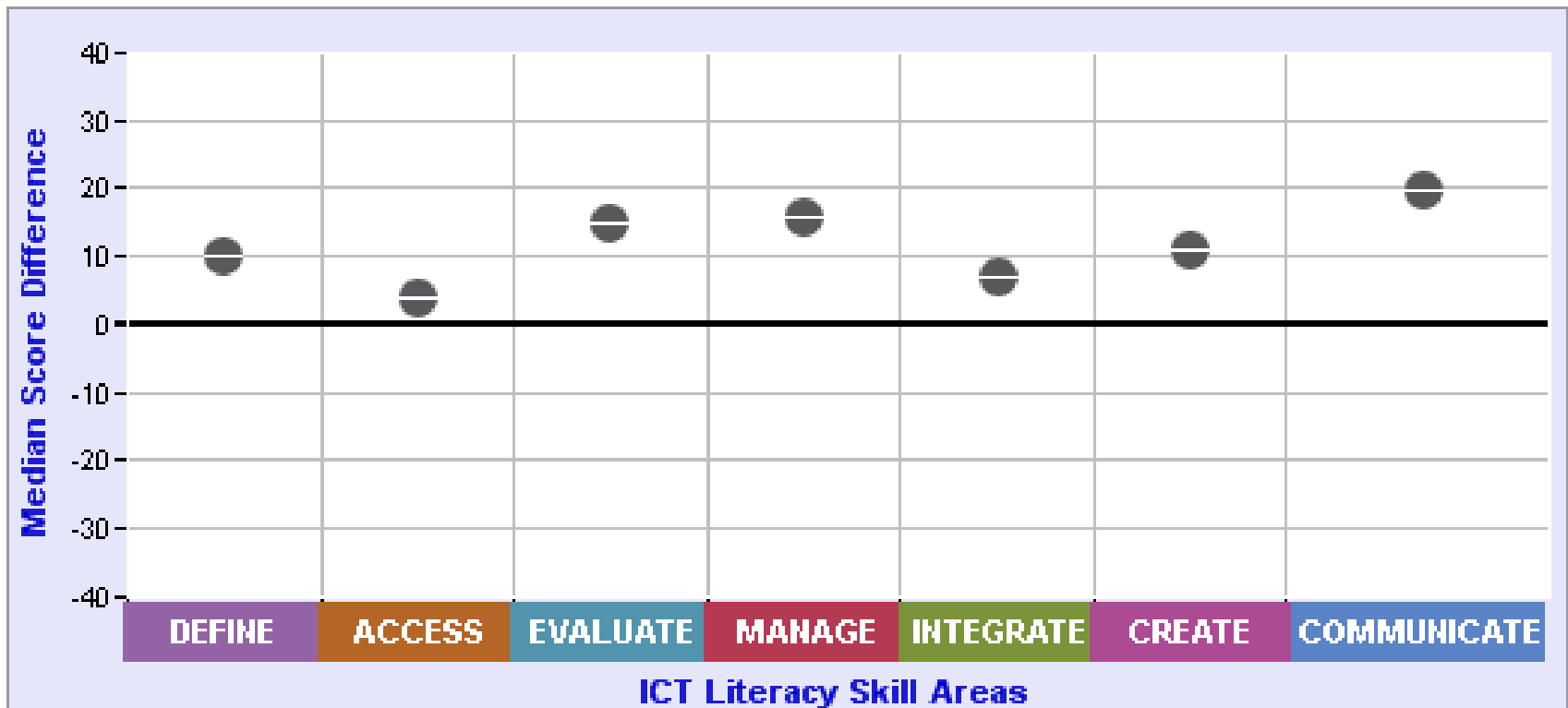


# Fall 2007 Pilot Results




N=83

# Fall 2007 Pilot Results



N=83

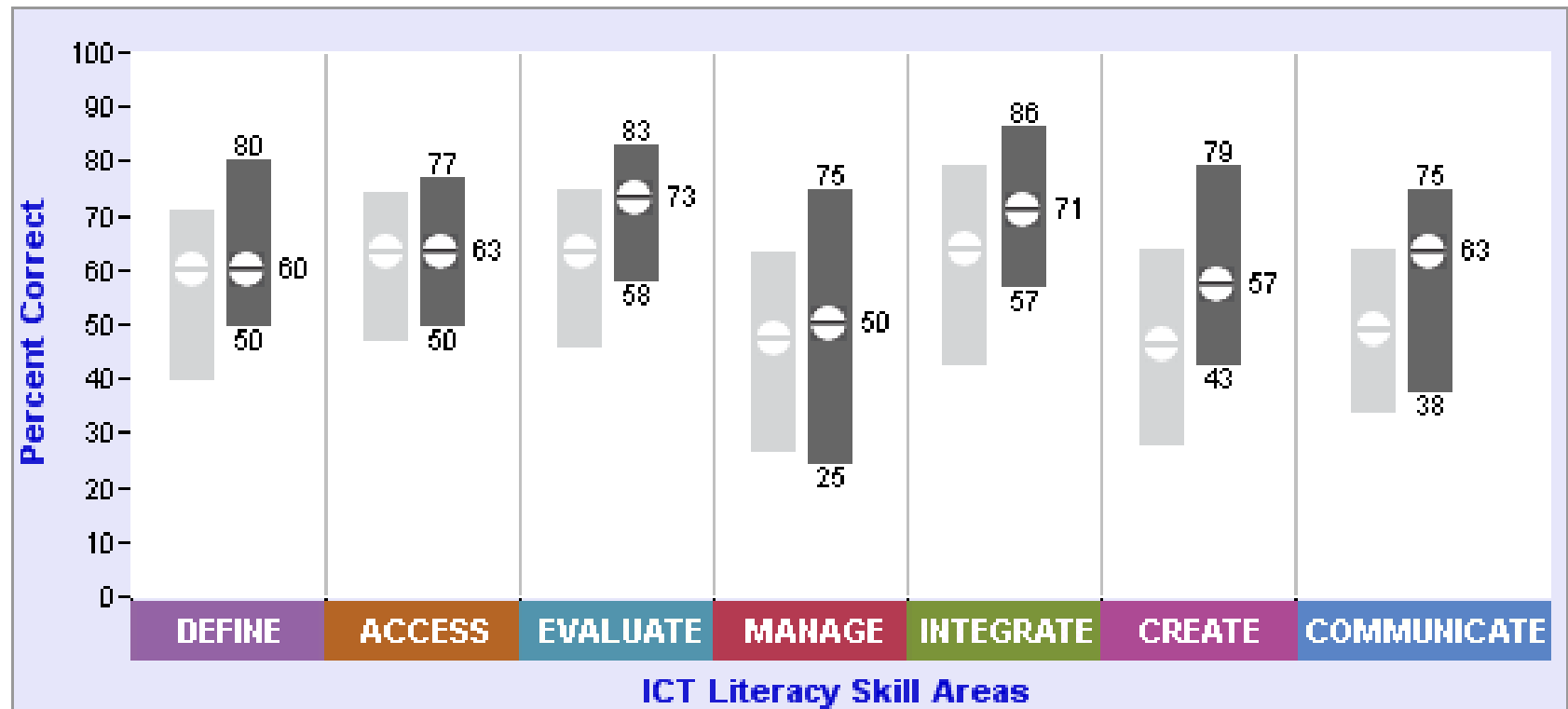


# iSkills Pilot – Spring 2008

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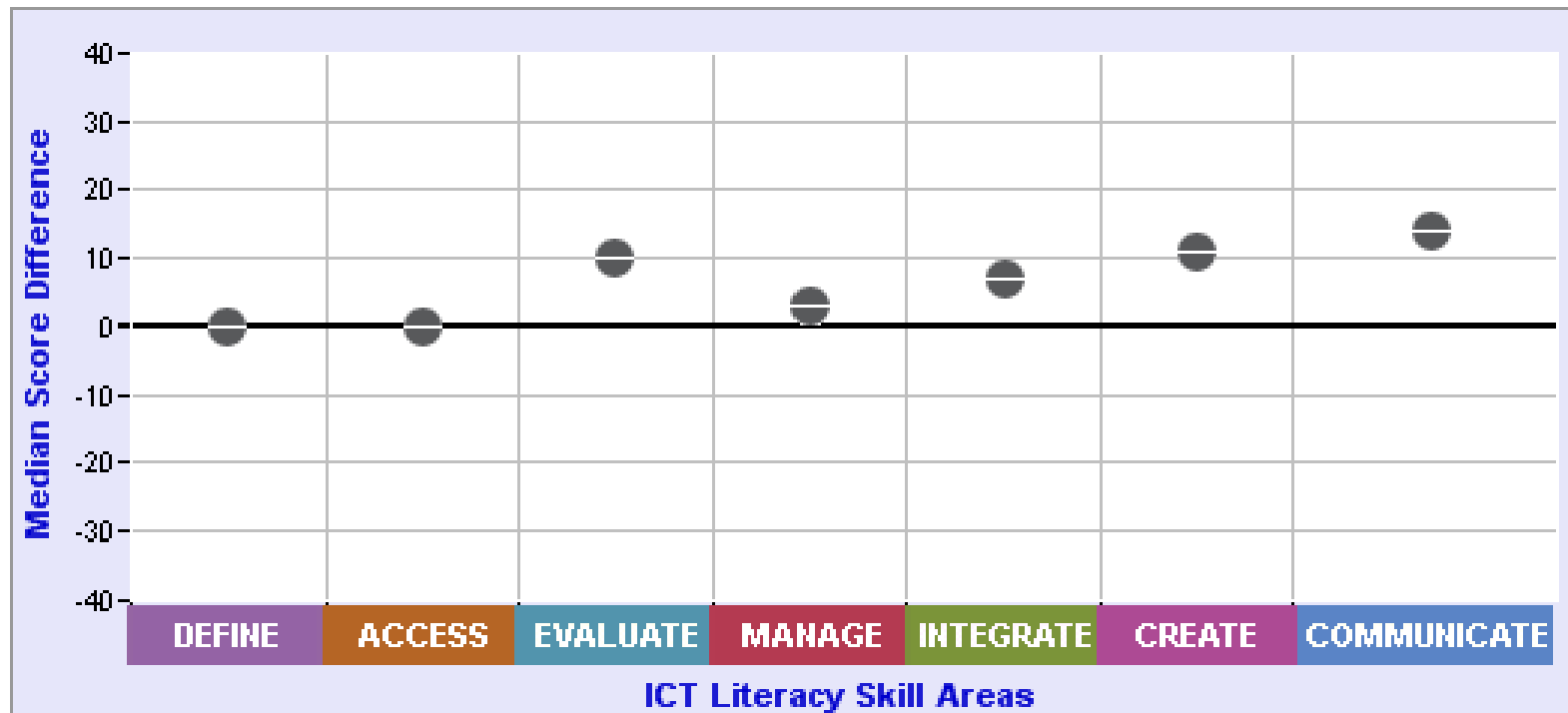
- Given late in semester – March/April
- Given in IL-designated courses (6 majors)
  - 2 sections CRJU/POLS
  - 1 section PHED
  - 1 section BIOL
  - 1 section ENGL
  - 1 section NURS
- Total of 98 students with 94 reported

# Spring 2008 Results



N=94

# Spring 2008 Results



N=94

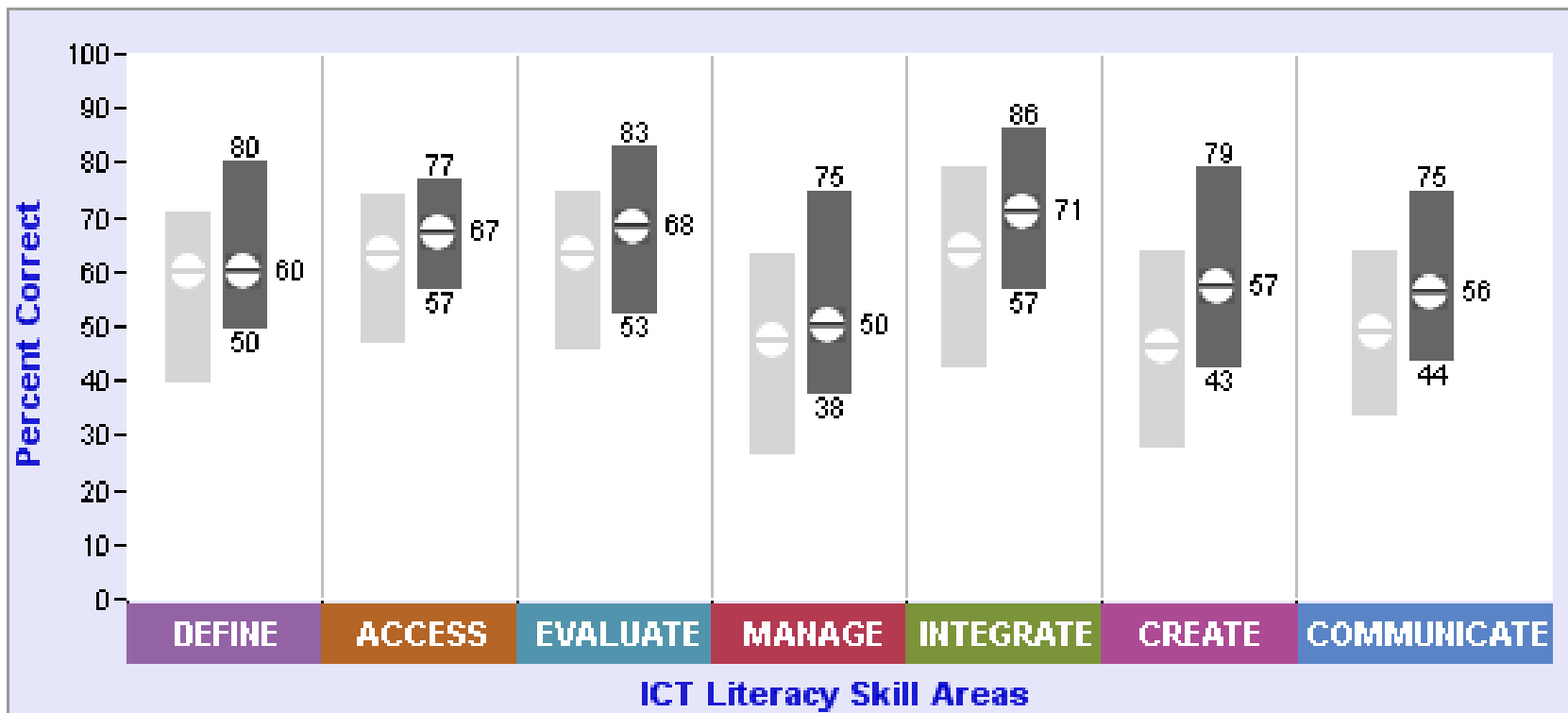


# iSkills – Fall 2008

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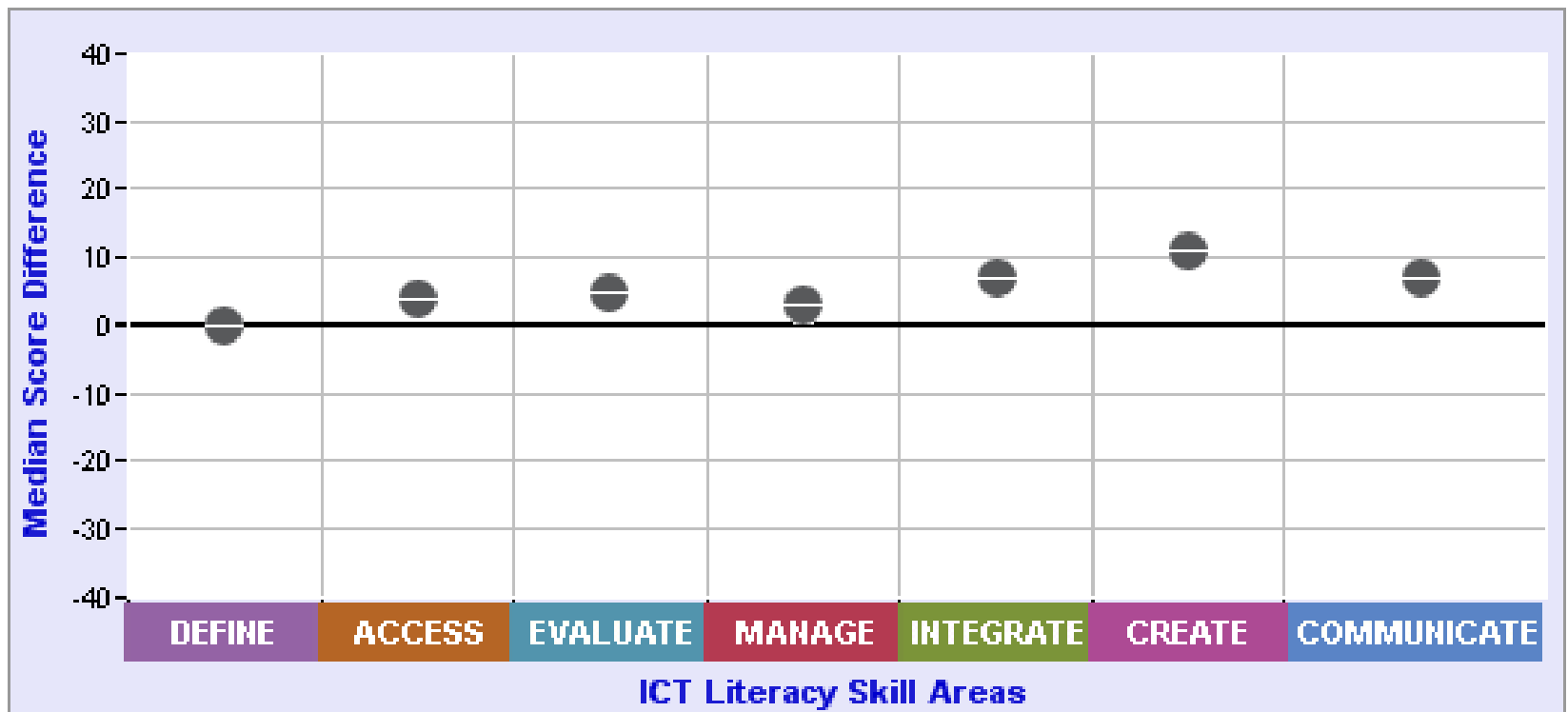
- Given late in semester – Oct/Nov
- Given in IL-designated courses (6 majors)
  - 3 sections CRJU/POLS
  - 6 sections MKTG
  - 1 section MGMT
  - 1 section ENGL
  - 1 section HIST
- Total of 247 students with 239 reported

# Fall 2008 Results



N=239

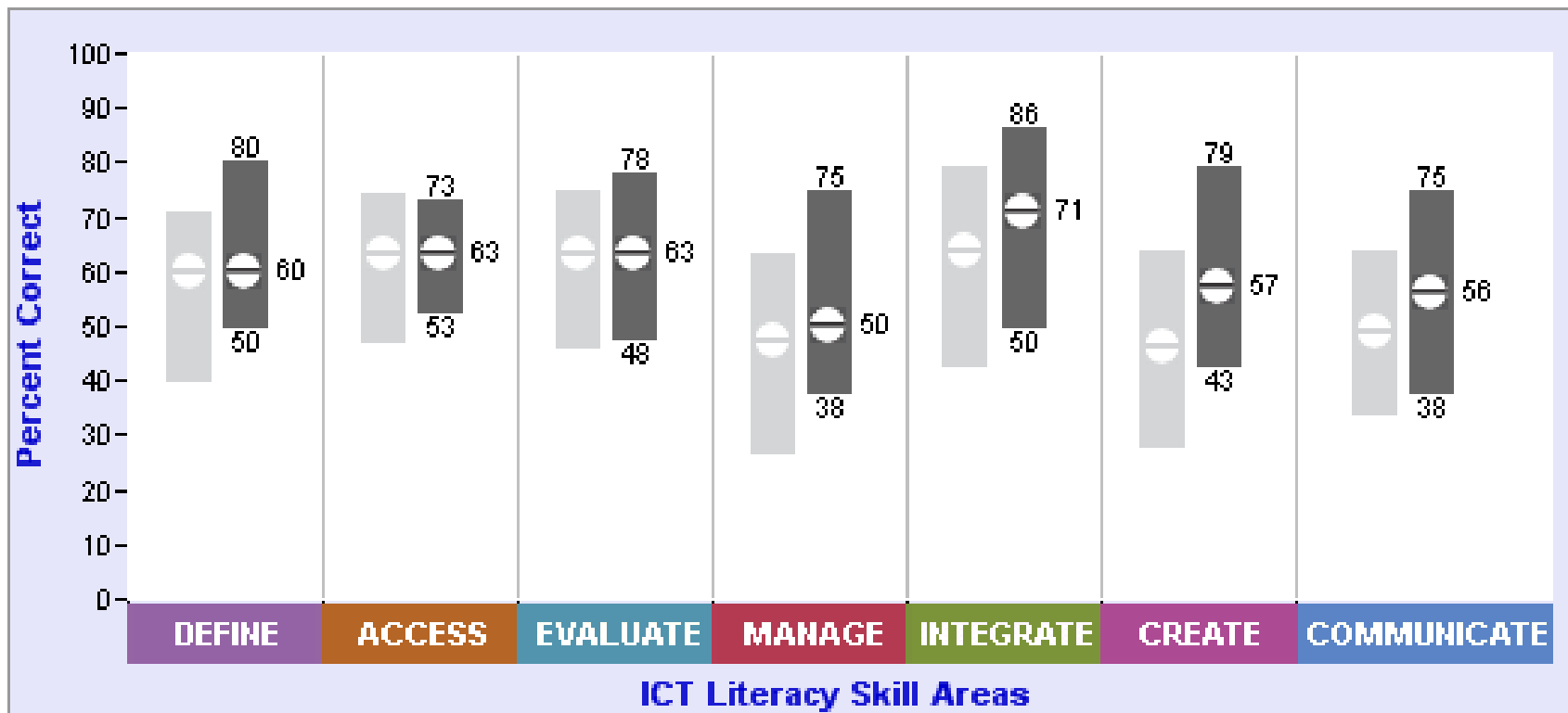
# Fall 2008 Results



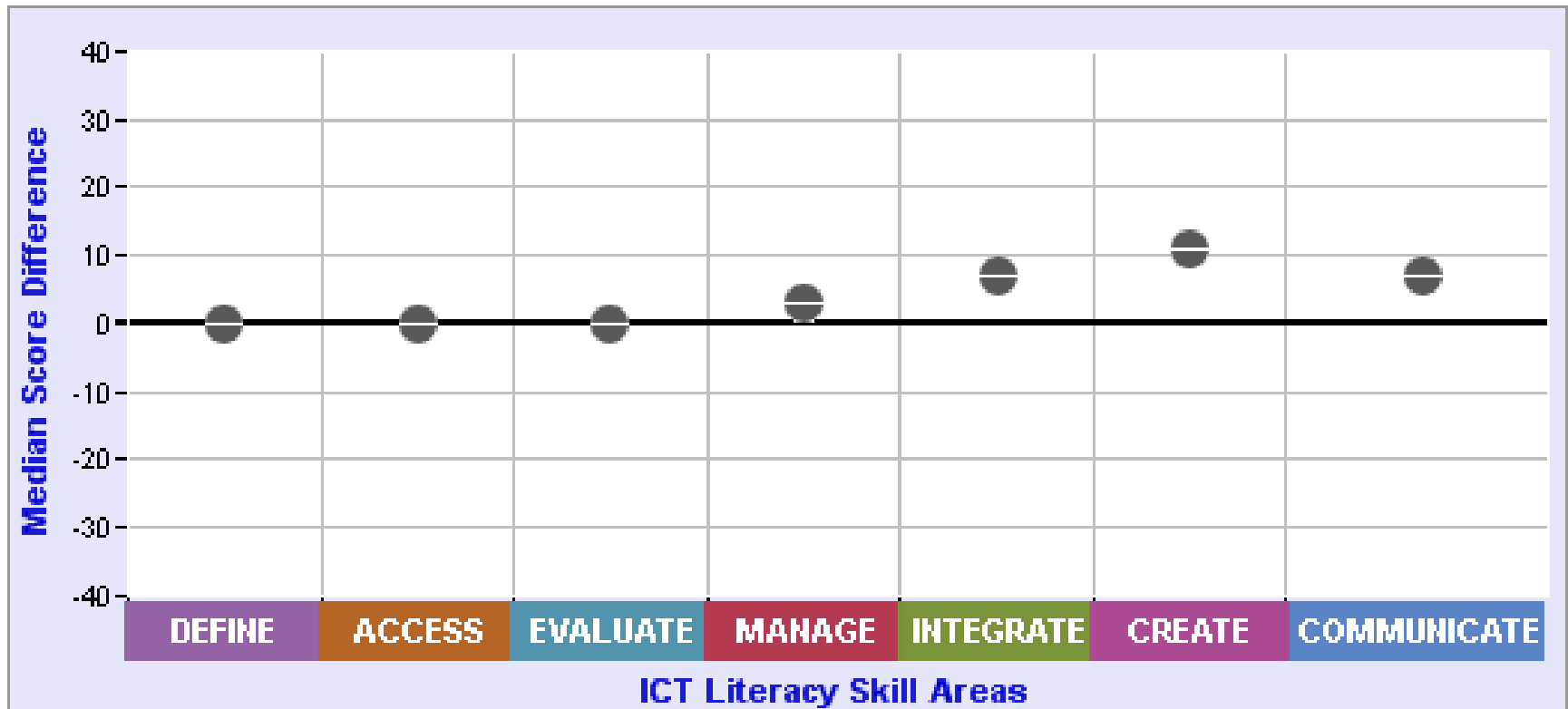
N=239



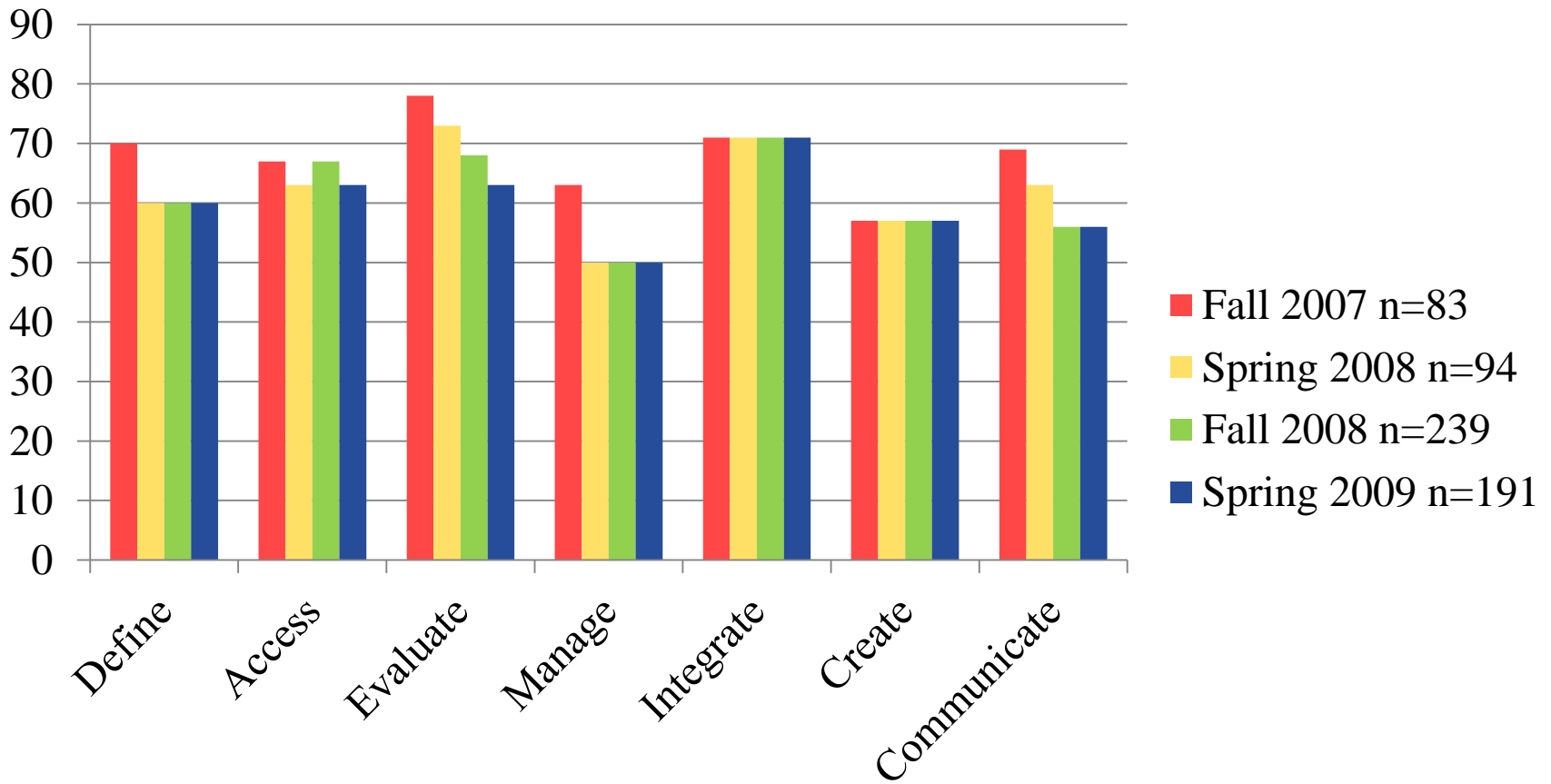
# Spring 2009 Results



# Spring 2009 Results



# Combined Results



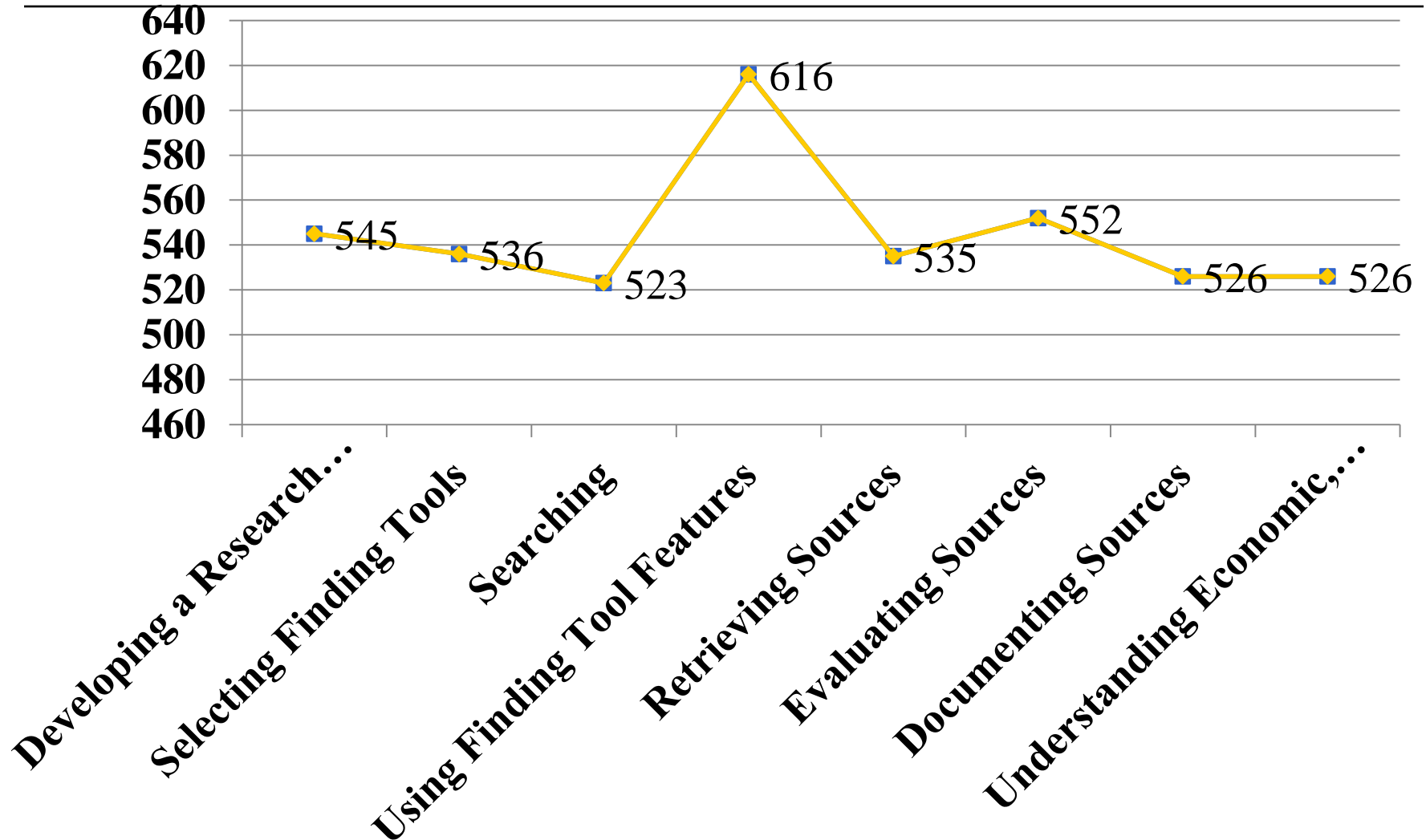
# Developing an Instruction Response

Jennifer Campbell-Meier

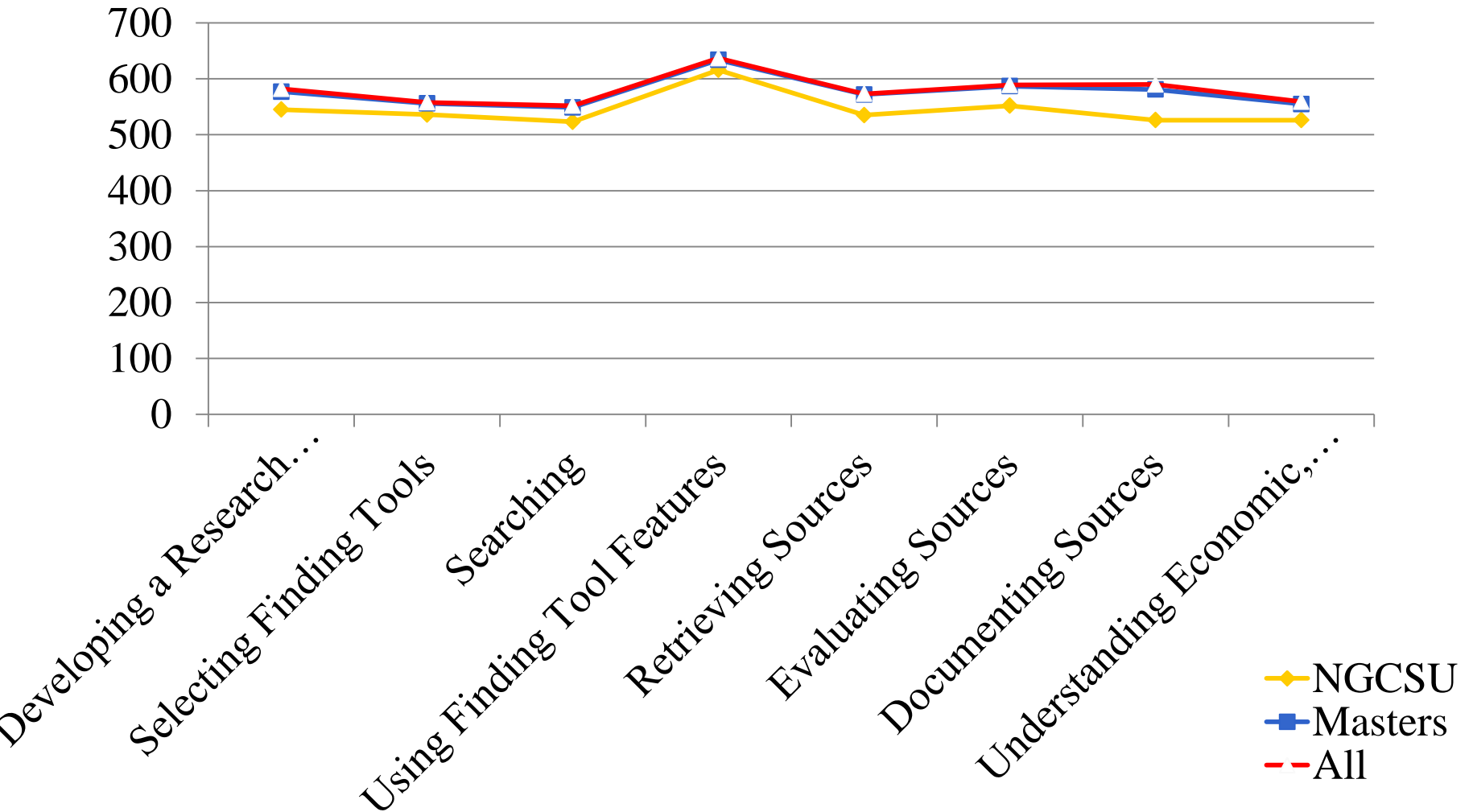
September 24, 2009



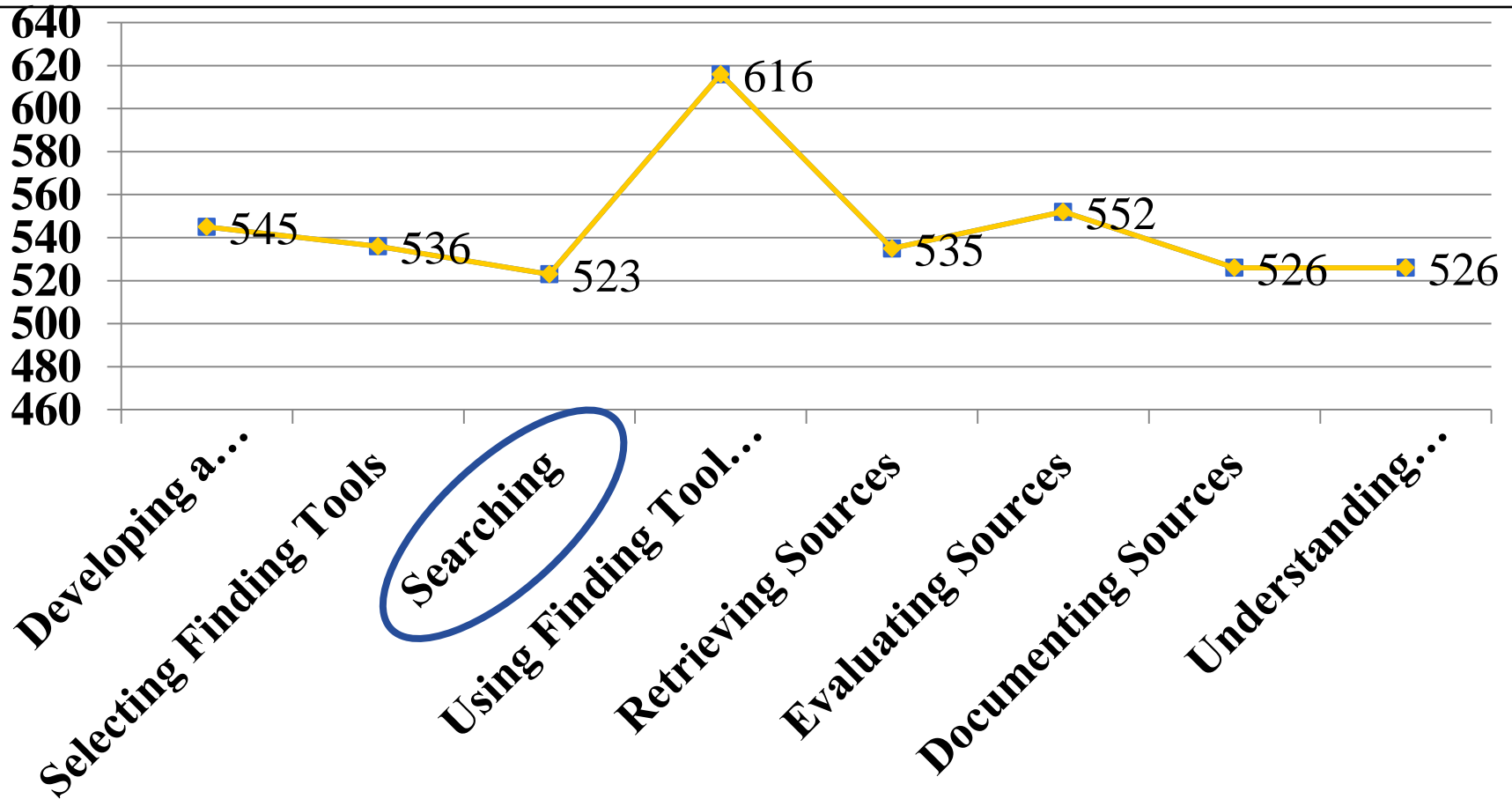
# NGCSU SAILS - Fall 2007



# SAILS

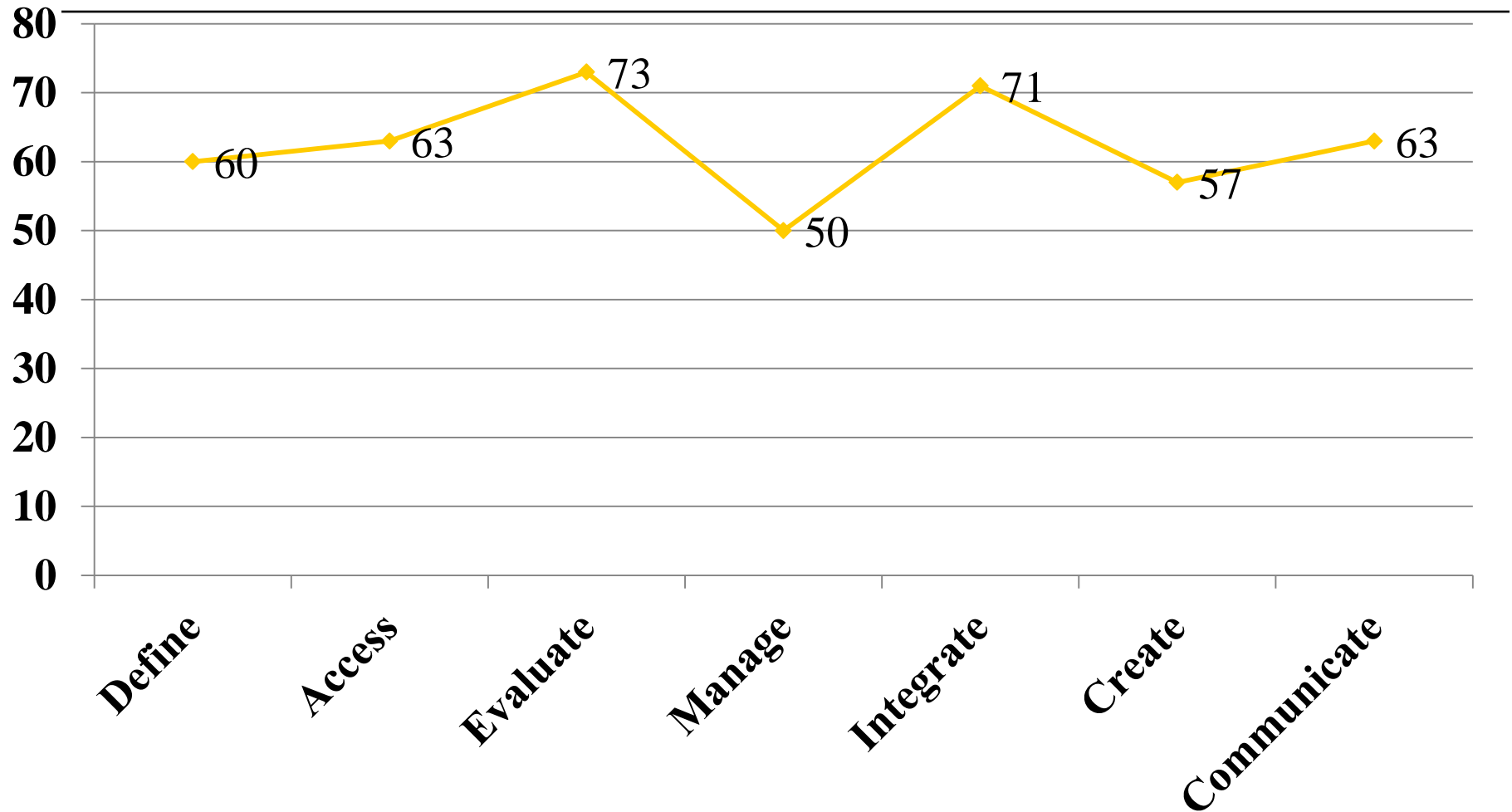


# NGCSU SAILS - Fall 2007



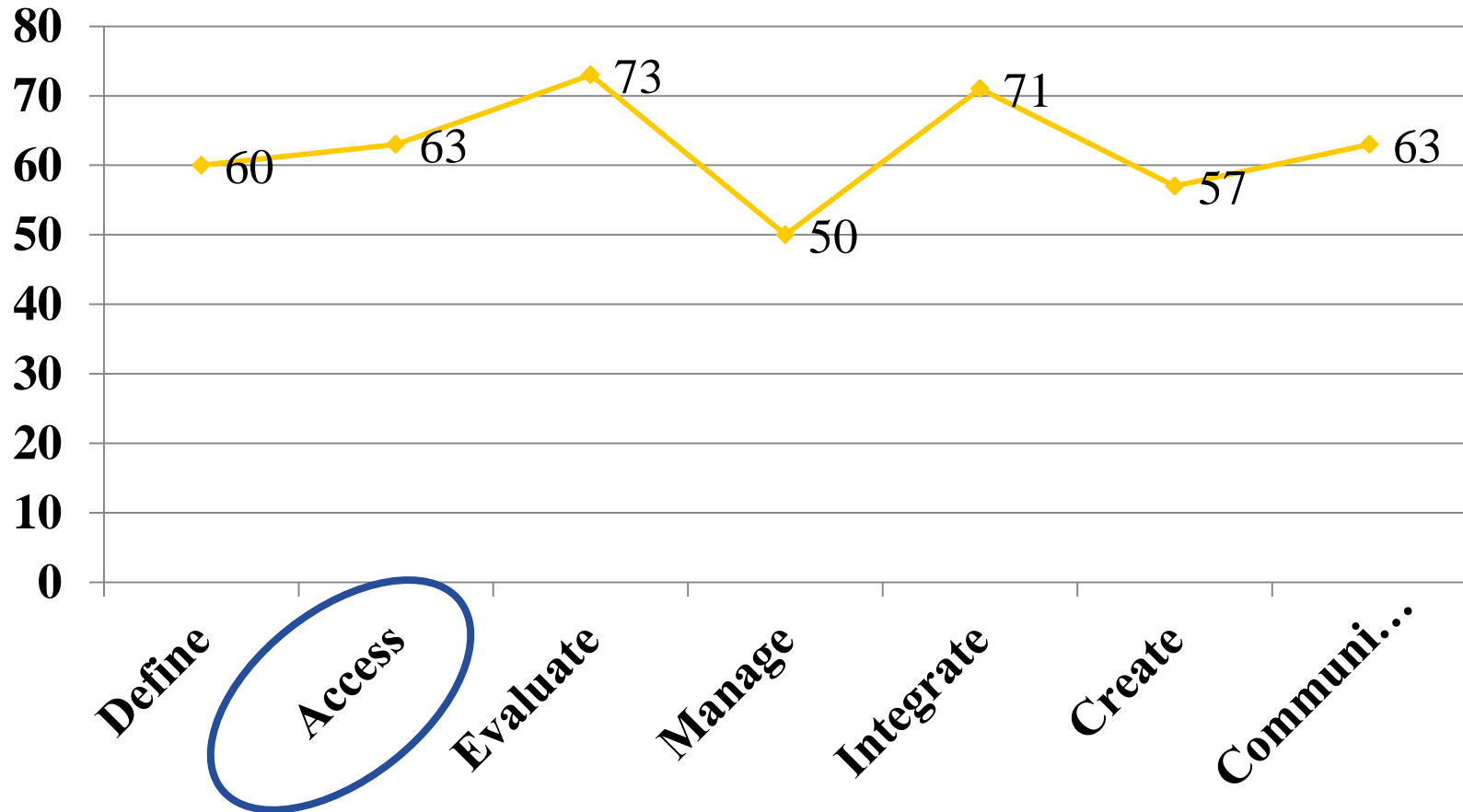
# iSkills Median Percent Correct

## Spring 2008





# iSkills Median Percent Correct Spring 2008



# Library Instruction 2007-2008

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Learning Outcome	Number of courses
2.4 Database searching – intro	7
2.8 General Database searching – intro	1
2.9 General Database searching – advanced	3
2.10 Specialized Database searching	6

# Library Instruction 2008-2009

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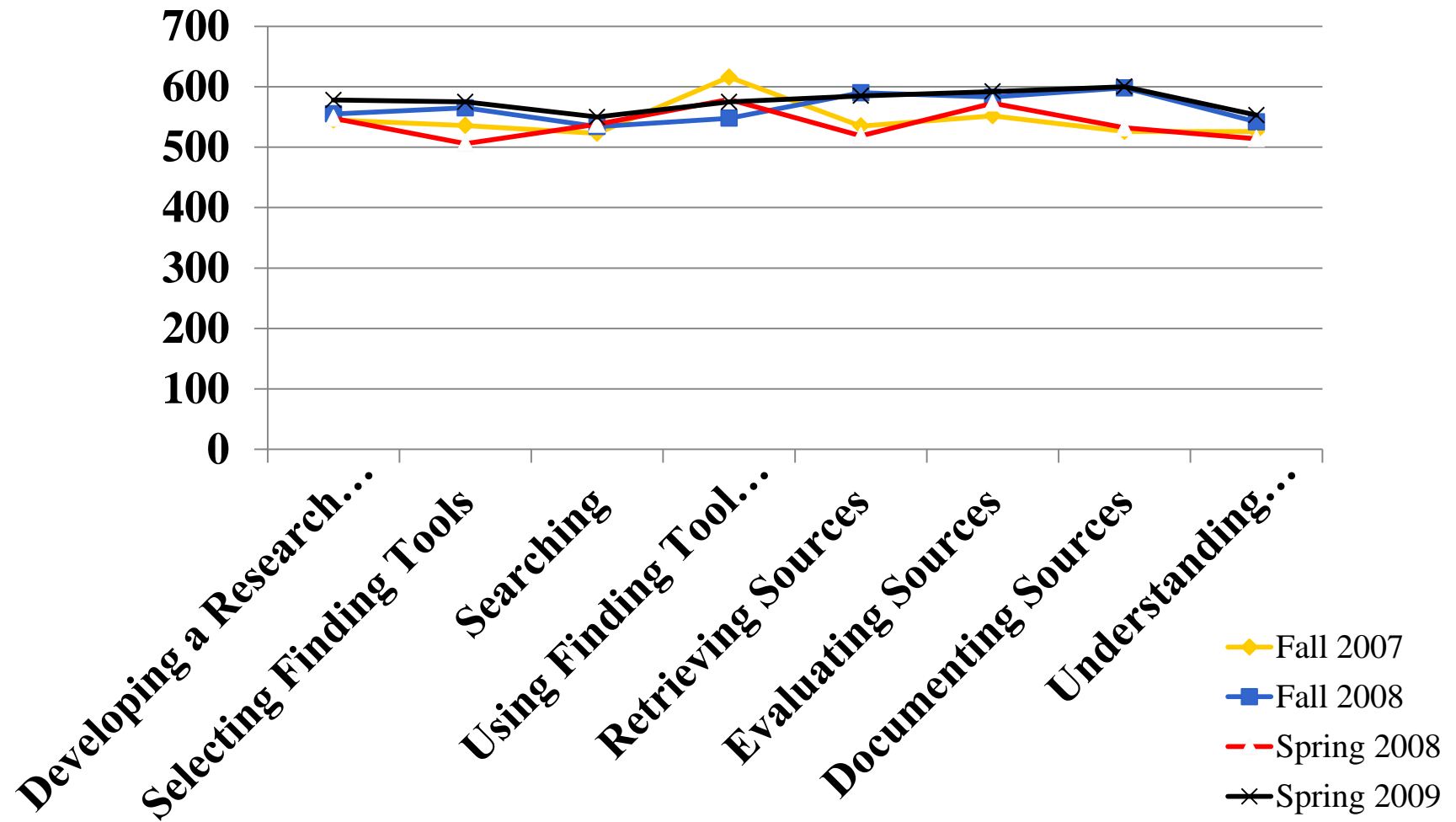
Learning Outcomes	Number of sections
2.4 Database searching – intro	18
2.8 General Database searching – intro	9
2.9 General Database searching – advanced	4
2.10 Specialized Database searching	17

# Other Instruction Initiatives

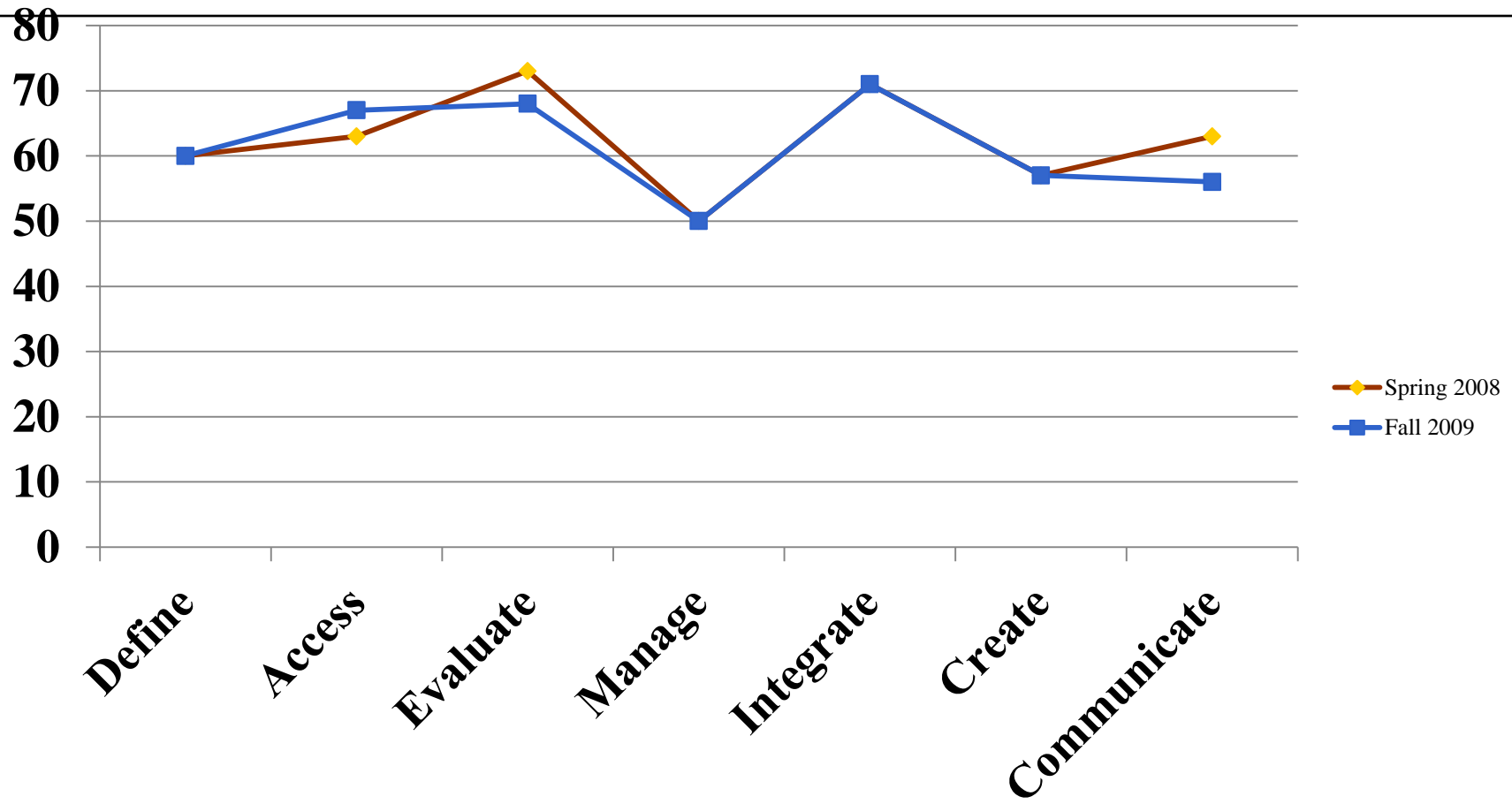
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- Assignment Calculator
- LibGuides
- RefWorks
- Embedded Assessment
- Work with ENGL1101

# NGCSU SAILS Scores



# NGCSU iSkills Scores





Questions?