



# Critical Thinking (CT) at Longwood University

**REPORT: SCHEV Core  
Competency Assessment &  
Planning for Improvement**

Report Years:  
2022-23 to 2025-26

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Competency Lead and AIR Staff

# Overview

## How is this core competency defined at Longwood?

Critical Thinking is the ability to present, explain, and evaluate argument in support of a position.

## How are Longwood students able to develop the knowledge and/or abilities expected of this competency?

Longwood students are required to take several courses in the general education curriculum (Civitae) that assess critical thinking, including CTZN 110, CTZN 410, the Pillar courses of Global Citizenship and Quantitative Reasoning and a minimum of three Perspectives courses.

### Symposium Level:

Advocate for, and respond to criticisms of, a position while practicing civil discourse.

### Perspectives Level:

Construct a well-framed Well-supported argument about a civic or global issue by using valid data and evidence from multiple disciplines.

### Foundation Level:

CTZN 110 - Demonstrate critical thinking by identifying, explaining, and analyzing arguments.

Historical and Contemporary Insights – Construct evidence-based arguments.

Quantitative Reasoning - Use mathematical, algorithmic, and/or statistical methods to gather and/or analyze data; justify the methods chosen.



## Goals & Methods

### *How do we know whether and how well students have achieved the competency?*

Critical Thinking achievement is measured using embedded assessment in CTZN 110 and CTZN 410 (Symposium). Assessment in Perspectives courses changed from juried to embedded in 2024-25.

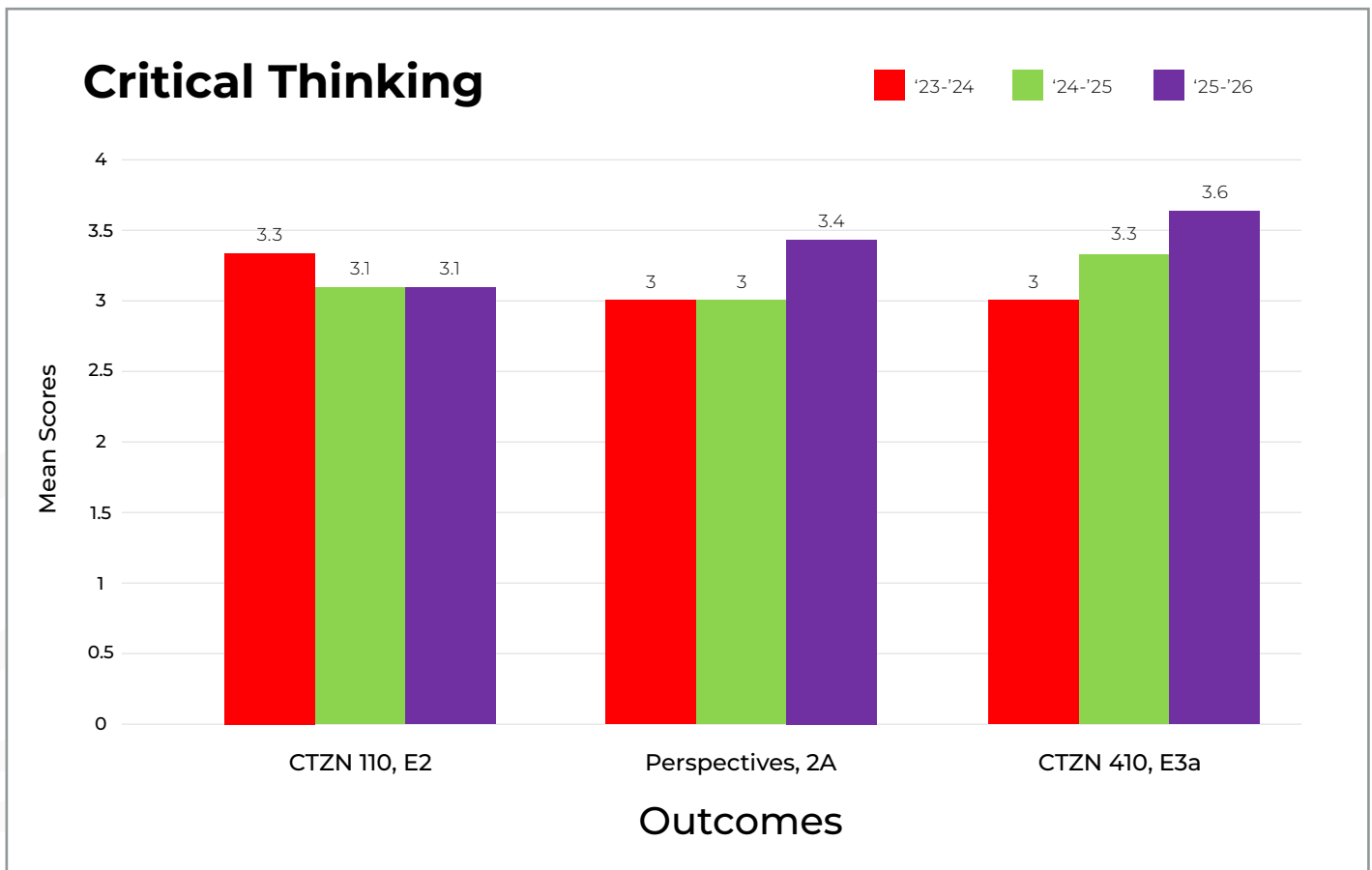
#### ***Expected Level of Success:***

**CTZN 110** – A target mean score of 3 (competent) on a 5-point scale

**Perspectives** – At least 60% of students will achieve a mean score of 3 (competent) or above on a 4-point scale.

**CTZN 410** – At least 50% of students will achieve a mean score of 3 (competent) or above on a 5-point scale.

### ***Competency Assessment Results***



## Key Findings

Longwood University students have met the Critical Thinking target scores in CTZN 110, Perspectives and CTZN 410 in each of the last three years. Mean scores in Perspectives courses and in CTZN 410 showed substantial improvement in 2025-26.

## Actions & Next Steps

Action items and next steps to be determined by faculty in Professional Development workshops in August, 2026.