Pellissippi State has identified a core of college-level competencies expected of all graduates. The school measures these competencies to determine the degree to which graduates have achieved them. Pellissippi graduates should be able to

- Write clearly
- Read proficiently
- Communicate orally
- Analyze and use quantitative information
- Solve problems
- Use technology effectively

**Assessment of Writing and Oral Communication**

Communication, both written and oral, is assessed in courses that focus specifically on those competencies. Students in ENGL 1010 write a final paper in response to a prompt based on an essay all students have read and discussed in class. A sample of these final writing assignments is assessed by a committee of faculty according to a rubric based on these communication outcomes:

- Students are able to distill a primary purpose into a single, compelling statement.
- Students are able to order major points in a reasonable and convincing manner based on that purpose.
- Students are able to develop their ideas using appropriate rhetorical patterns (e.g., narration, example, comparison/contrast, classification, cause/effect, definition).
- Students are able to employ correct diction, syntax, usage, grammar, and mechanics.
- Students are able to manage and coordinate basic information gathered from multiple sources.

Oral communication is assessed through a capstone speech to actuate, required of all students who complete SPCH 2100 Public Speaking. SPCH 2100 instructors record student speeches, which are then viewed and evaluated by trained full-time faculty in the program. This assessment is based on the same communication outcomes listed above, with two additional outcomes added by Pellissippi State speech faculty:

- Students adapt the use of evidence, analysis, and persuasive strategies to the audience, purpose, and occasion of the speech, making basic distinctions among opinions, facts, and inferences.
- Students effectively utilize a variety of oral presentation skills in a conversational style that includes eye contact; variety in rate, pitch, and volume; appropriate pauses; distinct articulation; correct pronunciation; effective gestures and movement; appropriate language choices; and effective note, lectern, and presentation aid uses.

**Assessment of Math**

Students’ mathematics skills are assessed in the final exam for MATH 1130 College Algebra, according to these outcomes:

- Students are able to use mathematics to solve problems and determine if results are reasonable.
- Students are able to use mathematics to model real-world behaviors and apply mathematical concepts to the solution of real life problems.
• Students are able to make meaningful connections between mathematics and other disciplines.
• Students are able to use technology for mathematical reasoning and problem solving.
• Students are able to apply mathematical and/or basic statistical reasoning to analyze data and graphs.

**Assessment of Other Competencies**

Learning outcomes for critical thinking/problem solving are
• the ability to solve problems;
• the ability to construct and present a cogent argument in support of one’s viewpoint;
• the ability to understand and evaluate arguments presented by others.

Assessment of these skills is accomplished using CBASE and the Community College Survey of Student Engagement (CCSSE).