

CRITERION-REFERENCED CUT SCORES



What is a criterion-referenced cut score?

The concept underlying the criterion-referenced cut score is to set the point on the test at which a test taker could be considered a “minimally competent candidate”, or one who is sufficiently competent for a beginning position in the chosen field. This was operationally defined as:

What a candidate should 1) know and 2) be able to do on their very first day on the job in order to perform duties in a safe and effective manner.

Who helped NOCTI set the criterion-referenced cut scores?

For each assessment, a group of 10 to 15 subject matter experts (SMEs) were recruited and trained by a NOCTI facilitator to participate in the rating process. Each group was recruited from a variety of states across the country and included a mix of educators in the field and those practicing within the industry. In addition, each SME was required to have a **minimum** of 3 years of current work experience in either industry or education (or both).

Should I use criterion-referenced cut scores?

The criterion-referenced cut scores are provided on the standard score reports for applicable assessments. NOCTI considers the criterion-referenced cut score to be the NOCTI passing score. The NOCTI criterion-referenced cut score should **not** be used as an alternate for state or locally-determined benchmarks, but can be used in addition to those benchmarks for the purposes of earning the NOCTI Workforce Competency Credential.

Analysis of Scores		Test Title and Test Code				Level: Secondary			
Site: Sample Site		Written - Cognitive				Type: Post-Test			
Test Date: XX/XX/XXXX		Standard#	Group	Site (Cumulative)	State	Nation	Criterion-Referenced Cut Score	Standard Deviation	Standard Error of Measurement
1	Standard 1	76.0	68.6	63.4	70.2		13.9	4.4	
2	Standard 2	67.2	61.0	61.1	68.3		15.3	4.8	
3	Standard 3	77.1	75.5	71.9	70.3		16.1	5.1	
4	Standard 4	69.5	65.0	63.0	65.0		17.7	5.6	
5	Standard 5	51.2	52.5	54.5	53.0		13.7	4.3	
6	Standard 6	72.1	71.1	72.5	71.3		17.0	5.4	
7	Standard 7	53.1	56.6	56.0	57.0		20.7	6.5	
Total		66.8	64.1	62.9	69.7	55.1	11.9	3.8	

Where do I find the criterion-referenced cut score?

Criterion-referenced cut scores are displayed on standard score reports, specifically on the Analysis of Scores report, for Job Ready and Pathway assessments. A criterion-referenced cut score will be displayed for both written and performance components, if appropriate.

A list of the current criterion-referenced cut scores is provided on the following pages.

Do criterion-referenced cut scores change?

When an assessment is revised, the criterion-referenced cut score is also revised. The cut score process begins once the test is released (September) and is generally completed by January. Until cut scores for new or revised tests are available, the following table will display TBD (To Be Determined).

NOCTI National Criterion-Referenced Cut Scores

Test Title	Test Code	Written Cut Score	Performance Cut Score
21st Century Skills for Workplace Success	1437	56.8	N/A
Accounting - Advanced	4900	51.9	84.3
Accounting - Basic	4000	47.7	84.0
Administrative Assisting	4101	47.0	88.6
Administrative Services	1205	56.3	N/A
Advertising and Design	4119	50.1	86.2
Agricultural Biotechnology	1229	46.2	N/A
Agriculture Mechanics	2102	47.1	85.3
Animal Systems	1227	47.8	N/A
Apparel and Textile Production and Merchandising	3018	50.1	89.4
Architectural Drafting	4004	48.4	78.3
Audio-Visual Communications	3005	52.1	83.3
Automotive Technician - Advanced	4008	53.5	89.3
Automotive Technician - Core	4309	51.3	86.4
Banking and Related Services	1096	56.9	N/A
<i>Biotechnology (State Collaboration)*</i>	<i>4075</i>	<i>52.5</i>	<i>77.1</i>
Broadcasting and Journalism	1106	60.6	N/A
Building Construction Occupations	4011	62.7	88.0
Building Trades Maintenance	4012	54.9	85.2
Business Financial Management	1095	56.6	N/A
Business Information Processing	4013	56.0	87.5
Cabinetmaking	3014	47.9	79.4
CAD	4973	53.1	84.1
CAD-CAM	3073	58.2	85.1
Career Skills	1100	42.2	N/A
Carpentry	4215	51.3	73.7
Collision Repair and Refinishing Technology	3183	66.0	81.1

*Indicates a State Collaboration Assessment, which is **NOT** eligible for a Workforce Competency Credential
 NOCTI Criterion-Referenced Cut Scores

Test Title	Test Code	Written Cut Score	Performance Cut Score
Collision Repair	4106	64.5	79.0
Commercial Foods	4020	46.2	82.2
Computer Networking Fundamentals	4514	61.8	84.1
Computer Programming	4023	70.6	84.9
Computer Repair Technology	4515	62.9	88.2
Computer Technology	4122	62.1	83.5
Construction	1128	58.1	N/A
Construction Masonry – Block	4025	46.8	72.2
Construction Masonry – Brick	4125	46.2	69.2
Cosmetology	4082	54.5	84.3
Criminal Justice	4181	52.0	79.9
<i>Criminal Justice Advanced (State Collaboration)*</i>	<i>1890</i>	<i>42.5</i>	<i>N/A</i>
Culinary Arts Level 1 - Prep Cook	4436	51.3	81.7
Culinary Arts Level 2 - Cook	4536	48.8	81.6
Dental Assisting	4226	62.0	86.7
Design and Pre-Construction	1127	58.2	N/A
Diagnostic Services	1386	56.1	N/A
Diesel Technology	4127	56.5	84.5
Early Childhood Development and Services	1236	45.8	N/A
Early Childhood Education and Care - Advanced	4017	56.6	80.7
Early Childhood Education and Care - Basic	4016	51.9	79.9
Education and Training	1125	58.8	N/A
Electric Power and Distribution	2039	48.7	82.0
Electrical Construction Technology	4130	55.2	88.4
Electrical Occupations	3029	51.8	86.6
Electronics	3034	56.8	83.2
Electronics Technology	4035	54.0	88.1
Emergency and Fire Management Services	1135	53.3	N/A
Emergency Medical Services	1138	52.5	N/A
Family and Community Services	1237	46.7	N/A

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Test Title	Test Code	Written Cut Score	Performance Cut Score
<i>Fashion Merchandising (State Collaboration)*</i>	4002	50.9	N/A
Financial and Investment Planning	1094	55.8	N/A
<i>Financial and Managerial Accounting (State Collaboration)*</i>	2120	50.6	N/A
Floriculture	4049	52.0	78.0
Floriculture - Greenhouse	4949	51.0	76.8
Forest Products and Processing	3037	44.1	72.8
Fundamentals of Construction	0177	55.2	84.9
General Management	1203	55.7	N/A
Graphic Production Technology	4242	48.5	86.7
Health Assisting	4143	56.5	82.3
<i>Healthcare Core (State Collaboration)*</i>	1141	53.8	N/A
Health Informatics	1387	56.9	N/A
Heavy Equipment Maintenance and Repair	3046	54.9	86.2
Home Health Aide	4048	57.1	85.8
Horticulture - Landscaping	4149	46.6	85.0
Hospitality Management - Food and Beverage	3079	44.7	83.9
Hospitality Management - Lodging	3080	38.9	86.8
Human Resources Management	1204	56.5	N/A
HVAC	3045	54.5	79.5
HVAC-R	3064	44.7	82.5
HVAC-R Installation and Start-up	2111	48.9	71.8
HVAC-R Service and Repair	2110	44.0	75.1
Industrial Electricity	2050	43.5	86.8
Industrial Electronics	2051	60.9	87.1
Industrial Maintenance Mechanics	2074	44.3	84.3
Information Support and Services	1131	59.5	N/A
Interactive Media	1132	59.4	N/A
Interior Decorating and Design	1032	48.7	N/A
<i>IT Exploration (State Collaboration)*</i>	1170	41.4	N/A
Legal Services	1137	50.3	N/A

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NOCTI Criterion-Referenced Cut Scores

Test Title	Test Code	Written Cut Score	Performance Cut Score
Lodging	1287	45.5	N/A
<i>Logistics Technology/Distribution Center Services (State Collaboration)*</i>	<i>2071</i>	<i>47.7</i>	<i>84.8</i>
Maintenance Operations	1129	58.0	N/A
Manufacturing Technology	2084	49.2	81.4
Mechanical Drafting and Design	4038	49.0	78.6
Mechatronics Level I	2040	51.3	N/A
Medical Assisting	4455	55.0	89.5
Natural Resources Systems	1228	46.1	N/A
Network Systems	1130	59.4	N/A
Nursing Assisting	4158	56.0	88.3
Performing Arts	1107	60.2	N/A
Personal Care Services	1238	45.4	N/A
Plumbing	4061	45.2	86.6
Practical Nursing	4162	51.1	86.3
Pre-Engineering/Engineering Technology	2475	50.1	81.9
Precision Machining	4152	45.9	81.4
Production Agriculture	3063	46.3	82.7
Protective Services	2480	50.6	79.8
Recreation, Amusements, and Attractions	1289	50.1	N/A
Restaurant, Food, and Beverage Services	1286	45.7	N/A
Retail Commercial Baking	4010	56.9	82.8
Retail Merchandising	4153	58.3	86.9
Security and Protective Services	1136	52.5	N/A
Small Animal Science and Technology	3103	45.4	80.0
Small Engine Technology	4168	52.8	83.2
Technical Drafting	4054	54.8	82.5
Television Production	3427	59.7	72.1
Therapeutic Services	1385	56.4	N/A
Travel and Tourism	1288	46.9	N/A
Visual Arts	1108	60.4	N/A

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Visual Communications and Interactive Media Design	3425	51.6	79.4
Web Design	2750	56.1	84.4
Welding	4272	57.2	80.5
Wind Turbine Maintenance Technician	2150	57.1	86.3
Workplace Readiness	3033	55.9	N/A
Workplace Success Skills for Middle School	1350	54.4	N/A

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