

Student Occupational Competency Testing in Pennsylvania

UNDERSTANDING STUDENT CUT SCORES

Pennsylvania-specific cut scores are established for NOCTI Job-Ready Student Tests when a revision to a test occurs or if a new test is developed.

How Pennsylvania Student Cut Scores Are Calculated

A **Competent Score Range** is calculated to determine the lowest and highest cut scores for the **COMPETENT LEVEL**.

BASIC LEVEL – scores **BELOW** the **Competent Score Range**

The Basic Level is set at 0.1 percentage point below the lowest score in the competent score range.

ADVANCED LEVEL – scores **ABOVE** the **Competent Score Range**

The Advanced Level is then set at 0.1 percentage point above the highest score in the competent score range.

EXAMPLE

The **Competent Score Range** for a test is 56.4% – 63.4%, the following cut scores would be set.

Competent Score Range = 56.4% – 63.4%		
BASIC LEVEL 56.4% minus 0.1% = 0% – 56.3%	COMPETENT LEVEL Competent Score Range 56.4% – 63.4%	ADVANCED LEVEL 63.4% plus 0.1% = 63.5% - 90% (not to exceed 90.0%)

NOCTI student multiple-choice and performance cut scores will not exceed 90 percent. High school students performing at the Advanced Level are identified as having the required skills and abilities needed to perform all job duties to industry standards based on the program area. A cut score of 90.0% sufficiently measures this level of knowledge.

Occupational Performance Level Descriptors

The following performance levels are used:

- **Advanced Level** – This level reflects the technical skills, knowledge and abilities required to successfully perform the duties of an entry level job, in a safe and effective manner with minimal supervision.
- **Competent Level** – This level reflects the technical skills, knowledge and abilities required to adequately perform duties on the very first day of a job, in a safe and effective manner with an appropriate amount of “new employee” supervision.
- **Basic Level** – This level does not meet the competent level.

Level Determination

Test Component 1 <i>(multiple-choice or performance)</i>		Test Component 2 <i>(multiple-choice or performance)</i>		Level Achieved	Certificate Earned
Advanced Cut Score	+	Advanced Cut Score	=	Advanced Level	<i>PA Skills Certificate</i>
Advanced Cut Score	+	Competent Cut Score	=	Competent Level	<i>Certificate of Competency</i>
Advanced Cut Score	+	Basic Cut Score	=	Basic Level	No Certificate
Competent Cut Score	+	Competent Cut Score	=	Competent Level	<i>Certificate of Competency</i>
Competent Cut Score	+	Basic Cut Score	=	Basic Level	No Certificate
Basic Cut Score	+	Basic Cut Score	=	Basic Level	No Certificate

Pennsylvania Student Certificates

Pennsylvania Skills Certificate

The Pennsylvania Skills Certificate was established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to recognize career and technical education students who have demonstrated high achievement in their chosen technical program. **A student must score at the Advanced Level on BOTH the multiple-choice and performance components to receive this certificate.**

Pennsylvania Skills Certificates will be mailed by the Pennsylvania Department of General Services Bureau of Publications.

Pennsylvania Certificate of Competency

The Pennsylvania Certificate of Competency was established by the Pennsylvania Department of Education to recognize career and technical education students who have achieved a competent skill level in their chosen technical program. **A student must score at least at the Competent Level on BOTH the multiple-choice and performance components to receive this certificate.**

Pennsylvania Certificates of Competency will be mailed by Penn State Greater Allegheny.

Disposal of Test Materials

Schools are responsible for the disposal of ALL NOCTI test materials including all used and unused student performance booklets, used and unused evaluator guides, unused answer sheets, and any related test materials. Accepted methods of disposal are **shredding** or **incineration**. After the proper disposal of all test materials, submit the *Test Materials and Disposal Verification Form* by May 15, 2025.

Properly dispose of all test materials and submit the ***Test Materials and Disposal Verification Form.***

This form is due by **MAY 15, 2025.**