

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 included on the standard score reports for Job Ready and Pathway tests. These cut scores are presented as an alternative for client use, but as always, NOCTI does NOT mandate the use of any particular cut scores. Clients may still set their own cut scores or use a normative method as needed/desired.

If you have previously used a cut score mandated by your state or district, you should continue to use that cut score rather than the NOCTI criterion-referenced cut score, unless instructed otherwise. If you are uncertain, or have questions, please contact the appropriate person in your state or district.

If you are not mandated to use any particular cut score, then the criterion referenced cut score is an option you may wish to consider.

Analysis of Scores		Level: Secondary				
Site: Sample Site		Type: Post-Test				
Test Date: XX/XX/XXXX						
Test Title and Test Code						
Written - Cognitive						
Duty #	Duty Description	Group	Site (Cumulative)	State	Nation	Criterion-Referenced Cutscore
1	Duty 1	76.0	61.7	63.4	63.4	3.9
2	Duty 2	67.2	57.3	61.1	61.1	5.3
3	Duty 3	77.1	67.5	71.9	71.9	6.1
4	Duty 4	69.5	60.9	63.0	63.0	7.7
5	Duty 5	51.2	47.7	54.5	54.5	3.7
6	Duty 6	72.1	65.6	72.5	72.5	7.0
7	Duty 7	53.1	52.0	56.0	56.0	0.7
Total		66.8	58.7	62.9	62.9	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.