2018-19 PENNSYLVANIA CUT SCORE DEVELOPMENT

We need your assistance in recruiting Subject Matter Experts (SME) to participate in the 2018-19 Pennsylvania Cut Score Development Committees for new/revised NOCTI tests! Each year, the Pennsylvania Department of Education’s Bureau of Career and Technical Education develops Pennsylvania-specific student cut scores for NOCTI post-tests as part of Pennsylvania’s Student Occupational Competency Testing Program. When needed, Pennsylvania-specific teacher cut scores are also developed at the same time. This year, Pennsylvania-specific cut scores are being developed for the following tests:

New/Revised Test Title                          Aligned CIP Code(s)
• Accounting Basic (4100)                      52.0302
• Building Construction Operations (4011)     46.9999
• Electronics Technology (4135)               15.0399/15.0303
• Graphic Production Technology (4342)        10.0399
• Health Assisting (4143)                      51.9999/51.0899
• Nursing Assisting (4258)                     51.3902
• Television Production (3527)                 50.0602
• Visual Communications and Interactive Media Design (3425) 09.0702
• Web Design (3750)                            11.0801

SME REQUIREMENTS

For this activity, committees of SMEs will be formed for each NOCTI test. These committee members are comprised of your occupational advisory committee (OAC) members and will be viewing an electronic version of the NOCTI test and reviewing each test question. In order to achieve a valid and reliable cut score, committee members must have current knowledge of the career and technical education program that is related to the NOCTI test being reviewed. Your OAC members should apply to be selected to serve as a SME for each NOCTI test. We are asking you to recommend your active and supportive OAC members who:
• are familiar with your program task list and curriculum,
• have knowledge of the skills students are able to perform at the end of their program and
• have been an active member of your OAC for at least 3 years.

It is important to remember that the OAC members who are chosen to serve as SMEs are determining the student (and teacher) test cut scores for the Student Occupational Competency Testing Program. These cut scores impact student post-test data results as well as determine whether students are eligible to receive college credit. We need your very best OAC members to be SMEs – those who have shown a strong investment in your program.

SME APPLICATION PROCESS

1. Each interested OAC applicant must complete an application form. (This application form will be reviewed to determine eligibility to serve as a SME.)
2. Accepted SMEs will receive instructions to complete the required on-line training. (This training should take about one hour to complete.)
3. After the training process is complete, SMEs will receive instructions to complete the NOCTI review activity. (The review activity will take about two to three hours and must be completed within one week.)
4. SMEs who complete the activity will receive a stipend for each test reviewed.

Submitted applications will be reviewed and applicants will be notified of their acceptance as an SME. Remember, your OAC members, if selected, are determining the Pennsylvania cut scores for YOUR program!

INSUFFICIENT AMOUNT OF PENNSYLVANIA SME

It is important to know for each Pennsylvania-customized test with no cut score due to insufficient Pennsylvania SME participation, the CIP code/program is not eligible to post-test under this occupational competency testing program. Consequently, program test data will not be available for secondary concentrators in the program and these students will not meet the CTE completer student definition. Also, for national NOCTI tests where no cut score can be determined due to insufficient Pennsylvania SME participation, national SME data provided by NOCTI is used with Pennsylvania’s calculation process to develop a Pennsylvania cut score. For both, Pennsylvania-customized and national tests, efforts to recruit Pennsylvania SMEs will continue until a required number participate.

If you have any questions, please contact Erin Young at elw12@psu.edu. We thank you for your continued support and dedication to the development of Pennsylvania’s student and teacher cut scores.