

Pennsylvania's NOCTI Pre-Test and Study Guide Policy

Pre-Test Information

Pre-tests are the multiple-choice component of NOCTI's Job-Ready post-tests. Pre-test data includes a Group Score Report, Competency Reports, and Individual Participant Reports. These reports provide schools with information and data to assist instructors and students in identifying skill strengths as well as gap areas that need further remediation. In addition, these reports are excellent diagnostic tools to help instructors adjust curriculum to meet the specific needs of students. Targeting identified curriculum areas for remediation throughout the school year has shown improved student performance on the post-test. Pre- and post-test comparative data is provided after post-tests are completed.

Requirements

NOCTI pre-tests are to be administered once to each student, who in the spring of his or her graduating year, is:

1. enrolled in an approved career and technical education program,
2. anticipated to be a secondary concentrator, and
3. scheduled to post-test in conjunction with the Student Occupational Competency Testing Program.

Costs

PDE's Bureau of Career and Technical Education will assume the costs of pre-tests and study guides for all approved career and technical education programs. Costs associated with pre-tests and study guides will be covered only once per student.

Testing Windows

Pre-tests are to be administered once per student, either in the spring of the junior year OR in the fall of the senior year.

2027 Graduates – seniors graduating in the spring of 2027 are to be pre-tested during one of the following testing windows:

- Spring 2026 pre-testing (juniors only) **March 1, 2026 – April 30, 2026**
- Fall 2026 pre-testing (seniors only) **September 1, 2026 – October 30, 2026**

2028 Graduates – seniors graduating in the spring of 2028 are to be pre-tested during one of the following testing windows:

- Spring 2027 pre-testing (juniors only) **March 1, 2027 – April 30, 2027**
- Fall 2027 pre-testing (seniors only) **September 1, 2027 – October 29, 2027**

Study Guide Information

Study guides contain information on both the multiple-choice and performance components of the post-test including an overview of the test which shows a percentage of each standard covered and checklists for each standard in the multiple-choice and performance components of the test. The accompanying Teacher Companion Guide includes suggestions for using the study guides in conjunction with current curriculum and classroom instruction; tips for helping students get the most out of their study guides; and information to help students prepare for the post-test, including information on the duty areas and performance jobs and rationale for the sample items – why the identified answer is correct, and the other choices are incorrect. Using the study guides to target the identified curriculum areas for remediation, throughout the school year, will ultimately improve student performance on the post-test.

Requirements

Study guides are to be used with students throughout the school year between the pre- and post-tests.

Ordering Information

Pennsylvania's *Student Test Crosswalk* is to be used to determine which pre-tests and study guides should be ordered for each program. Orders route through Penn State Greater Allegheny for approval.

Directions

Test site coordinators are responsible for ordering pre-tests and study guides through [NOCTI's Client Services Center](#). Prior to placing orders, all programs, teachers, and students must be added and linked in NOCTI's Client Services Center.