

TEST-TAKING: THINK AHEAD



You already know about the tests you'll take in high school:

- State tests like the Florida Comprehensive Assessment Test (FCAT)
- National achievement tests such as the "Iowa Basics," Stanford Achievement and TerraNova, and
 - Subject-related tests in your classes

Do you think testing ends when you graduate? Think again. If you're planning on postsecondary education, schools that you choose likely will ask for your results on the ACT test (<http://www.act.org>) or the SAT test (<http://www.collegeboard.com>).

Special training programs also require entrance or program completion tests. Those programs include apprenticeships, police and firefighter training programs and others.

Many workers have to pass federal, state or other tests to be licensed or registered, or get a certificate. Among them are physicians, nurses, hazardous materials removal workers, home health aides, teachers, psychologists, school counselors, lawyers, real estate agents, cosmetologists, pharmacists, landscape technicians who handle toxic materials, truck drivers and many others.

Some career-technical programs also have job readiness tests or skills assessments, such as those developed by the National Occupational Competency Testing Institute (<http://www.nocti.org>).

Many employers have skills tests, too, to see if applicants have the qualifications to do a job – writing tests, spelling tests, math tests, keyboarding tests, technical and job-related skills tests and others.

Graphic artists must present portfolios to be hired. Cake decorators, floral designers, landscape architects and others show photographs of their work to potential clients. Actors, dancers, musicians and singers participate in auditions and juried competitions.

So learning what you need to know in order to pass tests isn't just a "school thing." It's important to achieving career success as well.

NOCTI SKILLS TESTS

The National Occupational Competency Testing Institute provides occupational competency assessments and services for schools and businesses. Following are categories of NOCTI tests for career technical students and job applicants.

Agriculture
Business-related
Computer-related
Construction trades
Consumer economics
Culinary arts
Drafting
Electrical/electronics

Health-related
Heating, air conditioning
Machine trades
Maintenance services
Media services
Transportation/small engines
Workplace readiness