

Concordia University Chicago
General Education Assessment
Academic Year 2016-2017

Academic Year 2016-2017 was the eleventh year that Concordia University Chicago (CUC) used the ETS Proficiency Profile Abbreviated Form B for Proctored Online Administration to measure the effectiveness of the General Education curriculum. The test was administered to all freshmen and senior students during the Academic Year 2016-2017. The norm-referenced scores measured general education foundational skills in college-level reading, writing, critical thinking, and mathematics and context-based subscores in the humanities, social sciences, and natural sciences. The total score has a possible range of 400 to 500. The subscores have a possible range of 100 to 130. A total of 440 students took the test during Academic Year 2016-2017 and four students were excluded from statistical analyses. The participants included 232 freshmen that were enrolled in First Year Experience Noetic courses: Noetic Experience through Humanities and Noetic Experience through Social/Behavioral Sciences and 135 graduating seniors.

Scores Reported

Norm-referenced Scores (Scaled Scores)

Eight scaled scores were reported for students taking the ETS Proficiency Profile test:

- a total score
- four skills subscores (critical thinking, reading, writing, mathematics)
- three context-based subscores (humanities, social sciences, natural sciences)

The total score was reported on a scale that ranges from 400 to 500. The seven subscores were reported on a scale that ranges from 100 to 130.

Concordia University used the Annual Comparative Data Guide (CDG) which contains tables of scaled scores and percentiles for institutional means and individual student scores drawn directly from test takers across the nation. The CDG assisted in interpreting the scores from ETS Proficiency Profile by helping to determine how CUC students' skills compared with the skills of students at similar institutions. For national comparison, Concordia is classified as Master's (Comprehensive) Colleges and Universities I and II. (The national scores were weighted to accommodate differences in the size of institutions).

Table 1. Mean Comparisons of All CUC Students Who Took the ETS Proficiency Profile Test in AY 2016-2017

CUC Students N=436 National N=145,727	<u>CUC</u>		<u>National</u>	
	M	SD	M	SD
Total Score	441.9	18.34	441.8	19.5
Skills Subscores:				
Critical Thinking	110.5	6.0	110.9	6.2
Reading	117.2	6.9	117.1	7.1
Writing	114.0	5.0	113.8	5.2
Mathematics	113.3	5.7	113.0	5.9
Humanities	113.8	6.0	114.0	6.5
Social Sciences	112.3	6.1	112.5	6.2
Natural Sciences	114.7	5.6	114.7	5.9

* Concordia students' total mean score was at the national average. In comparison to peer institutions, all CUC students were at the national average on all the subscores.

Table 2. Mean Comparisons of CUC Entering Freshmen (No Hours Completed) Who Took the ETS Proficiency Profile Test in AY 2016-2017

CUC Students N=229 National N=43,469	<u>CUC</u>		<u>National</u>	
	M	SD	M	SD
Total Score	439.3	17.5	437.0	18.1
Skills Subscores:				
Critical Thinking	109.6	5.6	109.5	5.8
Reading	116.4	6.9	115.5	6.9
Writing	113.7	4.8	112.9	5.1
Mathematics	112.6	5.1	112.0	5.5
Humanities	113.4	5.9	112.7	6.1
Social Sciences	111.5	6.2	111.3	5.9
Natural Sciences	114.0	5.5	113.4	5.7

*Concordia entering freshmen's total mean score was two points above the national average. The entering freshmen's mean skills subscores were about the same as the national.

Table 3. Mean Comparisons of All CUC Seniors Who Took the ETS Proficiency Profile Test in AY 2016-2017 (Students that completed more than 90 semester hours or more than 145 quarter hours)

CUC Students N=135 National N=49,489	<u>CUC</u>		<u>National</u>	
	M	SD	M	SD
Total Score	446.0	19.4	446.3	19.9
Skills Subscores:				
Critical Thinking	111.9	6.4	112.1	6.4
Reading	118.5	6.9	118.5	7.0
Writing	114.8	5.1	114.7	5.1
Mathematics	114.1	6.4	114.1	6.0
Humanities	114.8	6.3	115.0	6.6
Social Sciences	113.5	6.0	113.6	6.4
Natural Sciences	115.7	5.8	115.7	5.8

*Concordia seniors' total mean score was at the national average. In comparison to peer institutions, the seniors' mean skills subscores were the same as the national.

Table 4. ETS Proficiency Profile Undergraduate Cohort Score Comparison: Freshmen Entrance Testing AY 2013-2014 to Exit Testing AY 2016-2017

	<u>Freshman Year</u> AY 2013-2014 N=287		<u>Senior Year</u> AY 2016-2017 N=135		<u>Change Freshman</u> <u>to Senior Year</u>
	M	SD	M	SD	
Total Score	441.0	17.9	446.0	19.4	5.0
Skills Subscores:					
Critical Thinking	110.0	5.9	111.9	6.4	1.9
Reading	117.1	6.8	118.5	6.9	1.4
Writing	114.2	4.9	114.8	5.1	0.6
Mathematics	112.8	5.2	114.1	6.4	1.3
Humanities	113.4	6.0	114.8	6.3	1.4
Social Sciences	112.2	6.2	113.5	6.0	1.3
Natural Sciences	114.5	5.5	115.7	5.8	1.2

*Table 4 compared the mean scores of the senior students when they were freshmen in Academic Year 2013-2014 with their senior year mean scores to examine the “value added” through the General Education curriculum. There was 5 point gain from freshman to senior year. This is consistent with previous findings.