

Assessment Day

Each fall, USI tests its freshmen and seniors using the ETS Proficiency Profile to measure general improvements in critical skill sets including reading/critical thinking, writing and math. In spring 2011, a second assessment day was added for seniors in certain majors to take Major Field Tests.

Major Field Test (MFT)

USI students have consistently scored at or above the national average in almost every field of study. The scores below are indicative of scores from the previous 5 years.

Test (Score Range)	# USI	USI	Nation	% (+ / -)
MFT by ETS (120-200)				
Biology	39	159.1	152.1	4.6%
Business	105	156.9	151.3	3.7%
Chemistry	12	152.2	147.3	3.3%
Economics	13	147.5	154.8	-4.7%
Literature in English	47	149.3	154.4	-3.3%
Mathematics	23	153.9	153.9	0.0%
Political Science	17	147.5	150.1	-1.7%
Psychology	62	159.0	155.5	2.3%
Sociology	26	151.8	148.1	2.5%
MFT by ETS (220-300)				
MBA	11	265.3	250.2	6.0%
ACAT by PACAT (200-800)*				
Geology*	10	535.1	500	7.0%
History**	69	474.6	500	-5.1%

*Not a product of ETS; **1st year using ACAT exam – used ETS in the past.

ETS-Proficiency Profile

In 2010, USI freshmen and seniors scored above the national average.

	# USI Students	USI	National	+ / -
Freshmen	1,880	438	434	4
Seniors	680	448	446	2

Key Skills Sub-score Comparisons

The ETS Proficiency Profile measures student aptitude on seven skill areas including critical thinking, reading, writing, math, humanities, natural and social sciences. **USI freshmen and seniors score above their national peers in every sub-score category.** Below is a comparison across colleges for the three most fundamental sub-score areas.

	Critical Thinking		Reading		Writing	
	FR	SR	FR	SR	FR	SR
Nation	108.9	112.7	114.3	118.8	112.0	114.6
USI	110.1	113.3	116.4	119.2	113.0	114.7
BE	109.9	112.9	116.0	118.5	112.8	113.8
EH	109.4	112.0	116.1	117.7	112.7	114.7
LA	111.0	113.5	117.0	119.5	114.0	114.7
NH	109.9	112.4	116.7	118.7	113.2	114.5
SE	111.6	116.6	117.9	122.1	113.8	116.5
UD*	109.3	----	115.1	----	111.9	----

*undecided majors; bold indicates a score below the national average.

Proficiency Classifications

The ETS Proficiency Profile also measures proficiency in reading/critical thinking, writing, and mathematics at three levels. At each skill proficiency level, students are evaluated to be either 'proficient', 'marginally proficient', or 'not proficient'. The graphs below display percentages of USI freshmen and seniors who scored 'proficient' at each skill proficiency level.

USI freshmen and seniors score higher than national peers on all three critical skill sets. USI seniors also show significant score increases between their freshmen and senior years on all three skill sets.

For example, at Reading Level 1, 55% of USI freshman and 72% of USI seniors are 'proficient'; at Reading Level 2, 25% of freshmen and 44% of seniors are rated at proficient, and at Reading Level 3, which measures critical thinking, 2% of freshmen are proficient and 8% of seniors, which is on par with national ratings.



