

Tracking Growth towards Readiness with The Iowa Tests

How can readiness information be used?

Readiness information gives families and educators the information they need to determine whether their students are on track and where additional coursework and preparation are necessary. It allows families and educators to monitor student progress from elementary school through high school and allows flexibility to determine the appropriate improvement and support strategies for students. Information from The Iowa Tests should be combined with other available information to help students develop realistic goals and plan relevant educational interventions.

References

AERA, APA, and NCME (1999). *The standards for educational and psychological testing*. Washington, DC: American Educational Research Association.

U.S. Department of Education, Office of Planning, Evaluation, and Policy Development (2010). *ESEA Blueprint for Reform*. Washington, DC: Authors.

What is the target for readiness?

For college readiness, the target is that level of achievement where a student is ready to enroll and succeed in credit-bearing first-year postsecondary courses. These targets are currently defined by the ACT Benchmarks, the College Board Readiness Index, or individual institutions of higher education.

What are the Iowa score scales that support longitudinal tracking?

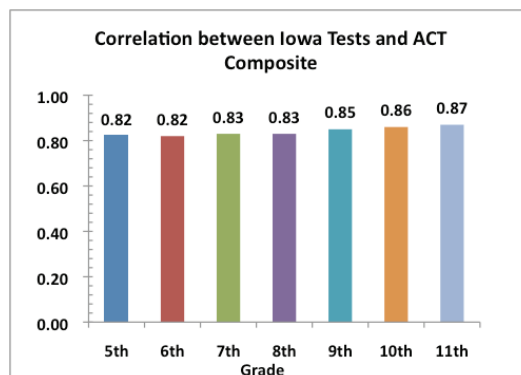
The Iowa Tests were developed using standard scores that describe a student's location on an achievement continuum. Expectations for a student's annual growth (beginning at any point on the scale) can be established and linked to appropriate interventions and instructional strategies. The Iowa scale tracks year-to-year growth and compares student expectations to achieved growth.

Iowa scores are reported on a vertical scale that quantifies and describes student growth over time. This scale, developed by Iowa Testing Programs, is psychometrically sound, has been used extensively at the district and state level and meets the technical requirements and professional standards of large scale assessment (*AERA, APA, NCME Standards, 1999*).

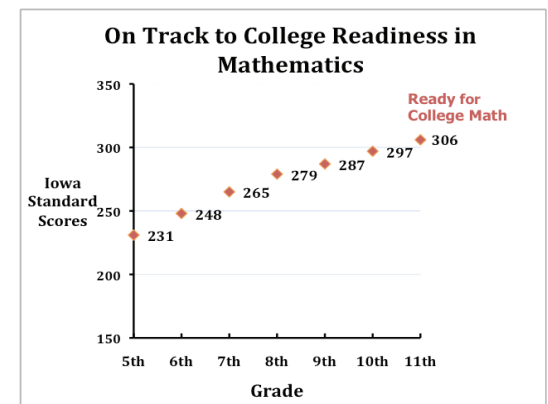
What validity evidence supports using The Iowa Tests for measuring readiness?

Validity is that attribute of information from an assessment that supports the interpretation and use of test scores. A comprehensive approach to the collection of validity evidence is an integral part of assessments designed to measure growth. Content alignments and criterion-related research studies are examples of validity evidence.

Evidence of a very strong relationship between Iowa Test scores and key indicators of college readiness suggests that the Iowa Tests and college readiness measure the same achievement domains. Based on a cohort of over 25,000 students who tested annually from 2003 to 2008, this relationship continues and strengthens from 5th to 11th grade.



Scores on individual Iowa Tests have been mapped to defined targets of readiness to determine preparedness in English, mathematics, reading and science. Linking studies have been completed to map these indicators to the ACT Benchmarks. A mathematics example shows how standard scores can be used to monitor growth and progress toward college readiness targets.



Iowa Testing Programs
College of Education
University of Iowa
Iowa City IA 52242-1529

steve-dunbar@uiowa.edu
catherine-welch@uiowa.edu

www.education.uiowa.edu/itp

