

ETS® Proficiency Profile Content

The ETS® Proficiency Profile was developed to measure and demonstrate the outcomes of general education programs in order to help institutions improve the quality of instruction and learning. It is a test of college-level skills in reading, writing, critical thinking and mathematics designed to measure the academic skills developed through general education courses, rather than the subject knowledge specifically taught in those courses.

Summary of UT Martin ETS Proficiency Profile results 2015-19

Test results for seniors (more than 90 Semester hours), Master's Comprehensive Colleges and Universities I & II

	Proficiency Profile 2018-19			Proficiency Profile 2017-18			Proficiency Profile 2016-17			COMP 2015-16		
	1162			1106			1150			1287		
	% Proficient	% Marginal	% Not Proficient	% Proficient	% Marginal	% Not Proficient	% Proficient	% Marginal	% Not Proficient	% Proficient	% Marginal	% Not Proficient
Reading, Level 1	74	13	13	72	14	14	76	14	10	76	13	11
Reading, Level 2	47	19	34	45	19	36	48	19	33	47	21	32
Critical Thinking	6	29	65	5	29	66	6	29	65	5	31	64
Writing, Level 1	69	22	9	70	21	9	73	20	7	71	21	7
Writing, Level 2	23	42	36	23	41	36	24	43	33	23	41	36
Writing, Level 3	8	32	59	9	31	60	10	33	57	9	31	59
Math, Level 1	60	24	16	62	23	15	61	24	15	52	26	22
Math, Level 2	32	27	41	35	26	39	33	26	41	27	24	49
Math, Level 3	8	18	73	10	19	71	9	17	74	5	15	80

ETS Proficiency Profile Proficiency Levels

Reading and Critical Thinking

Level 1

To be considered proficient at Level 1, students should be able to:

- recognize factual material explicitly presented in a reading passage
- understand the meaning of particular words or phrases in the context of a reading passage

Level 2

To be considered proficient at Level 2, students should be able to:

- synthesize material from different sections of a passage
- recognize valid inferences derived from material in the passage
- identify accurate summaries of a passage or of significant sections of the passage
- understand and interpret figurative language
- discern the main idea, purpose or focus of a passage or a significant portion of the passage

Level 3/Critical Thinking

To be considered proficient at Level 3, students should be able to:

- evaluate competing causal explanations
- evaluate hypotheses for consistency with known facts
- determine the relevance of information for evaluating an argument or conclusion
- determine whether an artistic interpretation is supported by evidence contained in a work
- evaluate the appropriateness of procedures for investigating a question of causation
- evaluate data for consistency with known facts, hypotheses or methods
- recognize flaws and inconsistencies in an argument

Writing

Level 1

To be considered proficient at Level 1, students should be able to:

- recognize agreement among basic grammatical elements (e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns and conjunctions)
- recognize appropriate transition words
- recognize incorrect word choice
- order sentences in a paragraph
- order elements in an outline

Level 2

To be considered proficient at Level 2, students should be able to:

- incorporate new material into a passage
- recognize agreement among basic grammatical elements (e.g., nouns, verbs, pronouns and conjunctions) when these elements are complicated by intervening words or phrases
- combine simple clauses into single, more complex combinations
- recast existing sentences into new syntactic combinations

Level 3

To be considered proficient at Level 3, students should be able to:

- discriminate between appropriate and inappropriate use of parallelism
- discriminate between appropriate and inappropriate use of idiomatic language
- recognize redundancy
- discriminate between correct and incorrect constructions
- recognize the most effective revision of a sentence

Mathematics

Level 1

To be considered proficient at Level 1, students should be able to:

- solve word problems that would most likely be solved by arithmetic and do not involve conversion of units or proportionality. These problems can be multistep if the steps are repeated rather than embedded.
- solve problems involving the informal properties of numbers and operations, often involving the Number Line, including positive and negative numbers, whole numbers and fractions (including conversions of common fractions to percent, such as converting "1/4" to 25 percent).
- solve problems requiring a general understanding of square roots and the squares of numbers.
- solve a simple equation or substitute numbers into an algebraic expression.
- find information from a graph. This task may involve finding a specified piece of information in a graph that also contains other information.

Level 2

To be considered proficient at Level 2, students should be able to:

- solve arithmetic problems with some complications, such as complex wording, maximizing or minimizing and embedded ratios. These problems include algebra problems that can be solved by arithmetic (the answer choices are numeric).
- simplify algebraic expressions, perform basic translations, and draw conclusions from algebraic equations and inequalities. These tasks are more complicated than solving a simple equation, though they may be approached arithmetically by substituting numbers.
- interpret a trend represented in a graph, or choose a graph that reflects a trend.
- solve problems involving sets; problems have numeric answer choices.

Level 3

To be considered proficient at Level 3, students should be able to:

- solve word problems that would be unlikely to be solved by arithmetic; the answer choices are either algebraic expressions or numbers that do not lend themselves to back-solving
- solve problems involving difficult arithmetic concepts, such as exponents and roots other than squares and square roots, and percent of increase or decrease
- generalize about numbers (e.g., identify the values of x for which an expression increases as x increases)
- solve problems requiring an understanding of the properties of integers, rational numbers, etc.
- interpret a graph in which the trends are to be expressed algebraically or one of the following is involved: exponents and roots other than squares and square roots, percent of increase or decrease
- solve problems requiring insight or logical reasoning