

# Woodcock-Johnson III Normative Update (NU)



The development of an intermediate set of norms prior to a major content revision of a test battery is a significant advancement in individual cognitive and educational assessment. The WJ III Normative Update (WJ III NU) is based on a recalculation of the original WJ III normative data, and it reflects changes in general population characteristics reported in the final U.S. census statistics, which were released in 2005. 8,782 of the original 8,818 WJ III subjects were selected for inclusion in the normative update, and the 8,782 subjects were re-weighted to match the final U.S. census statistics.

Significant changes have occurred between the year 2000 U.S. Census projections (used in the WJ III) and the year 2000 census final statistics (used in the WJ III NU), which became available in 2005 – the latest census information is reflected in the WJ III NU norms. New processes were also part of the development of the new norms, including the bootstrap statistical technique, a method for assigning measures of accuracy to sampling data. The completed demographic update provides a more current and accurate measure of an individual's cognitive and achievement scores.

The WJ III NU uses continuous-year norms to yield normative data at 10 points in each grade, for Kindergarten through Grade 12, two-year college, and four-year college, including graduate school. The WJ III NU also provides age-based norms by month for ages 24 months to 90+ years.

The WJ III Normative Update provides a set of tools and procedures for integration of norm-referenced academic and cognitive measures in a three-tiered model of assessment and intervention. No other battery of cognitive and achievement tests is more comprehensive for assessment of academic achievement and cognitive processing.

The WJ III NU provides new norms for the following kits: WJ III Cognitive Form A; the WJ III Diagnostic Supplement to the WJ III Cognitive kit; and WJ III Achievement Forms A, B, and C. Please see page 8 for news about Form C.

In general, a review of the WJ III NU indicates that, when a significant difference in the average Standard Score (SS) is present between the original WJ III norms and the WJ III NU norms, that difference is typically in the direction of the WJ III NU SS being lower. The trend for the differences in the average SS is largest (in the direction of the WJ III

NU norms being lower) at the youngest (preschool) and oldest (adult) age groups, particularly the former, for some but not all tests. Also, in general, for the preschool age ranges, the SS differences become larger the younger the subjects. Considering preschool, school-age, and adult ages, the SS differences tend to be the least different for the school-age population, ages 6-18. Assessment Service Bulletin #9 is available for "WJ III and NU Score Differences" – please see page 5. The WJ III NU Technical Manual includes additional information about some other changes in the WJ III NU scores (refer to page 30 of the manual) and it also provides new sources of validity information, particularly for clinical groups.

Principles of psychological associations suggest that assessments, intervention decisions, and recommendations should be based on an instrument's most current norms – this suggests that examiners should move to the WJ III NU norms as soon as practicable. However, in limited instances where growth and change across time are being measured, and where the subject's pre-test was completed and scored with the original WJ III norms, the original WJ III norms should be used as the subject's post-change measure, but only for that purpose.

## WJ III NU Compuscore Scoring and Reporting Software, Version 3.1 (Windows and Mac)

- WJ III NU Compuscore V3.1 scores all subjects with the latest norms from the WJ III Normative Update
- The Summary Report has been improved for more flexibility, and includes Form C test-by-test behaviour observations
- A new optional Parent Report is available, to clearly identify proficiency levels (including "limited" vs. "very limited", etc.)
- V3.1 is more user-friendly for navigation and data entry, and offers an expanded set of variation/discrepancy procedures
- If desired, V3.1 can be installed separately, alongside an existing installation of Compuscore V1.1b, V2.0, or V2.1
- WJ III NU Compuscore is included with each WJ III COG Kit and WJ III ACH Kit, and with the WJ III Diagnostic Supplement Kit (page 14).



## WJ III NORMATIVE UPDATE NEWS:

- Assessment Service Bulletin #9 – **Woodcock-Johnson III® / Woodcock-Johnson III Normative Update Score Differences: What the User Can Expect and Why** is available on the web at [assess.nelson.com](http://assess.nelson.com) – click on Woodcock-Johnson III. Copies of ASB #9 are also available in print or via e-mail, on request from Nelson Education Customer Support at 1-800-268-2222.
- To update your existing WJ III kit, please consider ordering the **WJ III Normative Update Package**, code 1099058. This package includes the WJ III NU Technical Manual and the WJ III NU Compuscore software. Please see page 16 for pricing.
- The **Woodcock Interpretation and Instructional Interventions Program**, (WIIP) is a new “report writer” that incorporates the WJ III NU norms. The WIIP is outlined on page 12.
- For minimum system requirements (PC and Mac), please refer to page 16.
- Prices for the WJ III Compuscore software and the WIIP are included on page 16.