

TANCET

Marks vs Percentile

A Complete Handbook for MBA & MCA Aspirants

About This Guide

Understanding the TANCET scoring system is essential for every MBA and MCA aspirant aiming for admission to top colleges in Tamil Nadu.

This guide explains:

- The difference between actual marks and percentile scores
- How is the percentile calculated
- Expected marks vs percentile analysis
- College cutoff trends
- Tie-breaking rules
- The role of percentile during counselling and admissions

Whether you are estimating your performance or setting a preparation target, this handbook will help you understand how TANCET scores influence your admission opportunities.

Understanding TANCET Scoring

The Tamil Nadu Common Entrance Test (TANCET), conducted by Anna University, Chennai, Tamil Nadu. TANCET result includes two important parameters:

- Actual Marks
- Percentile Score

Although candidates often focus on raw marks, admissions to MBA and MCA programmes are primarily based on the percentile rank.

🎯 Your percentile score plays a major role in determining your counselling rank and admission chances.

◆ What Are Actual Marks?

Actual marks are the raw score obtained directly from the official marking scheme.

These marks are calculated before normalisation or percentile conversion.

📌 TANCET Marking Scheme

Response Type	Marks Awarded
Correct Answer	+1.0
Incorrect Answer	-0.25
Multiple Options Selected	-0.25

◆ Formula to Calculate Actual Score

Actual Marks = Correct Answers - (0.25 × Incorrect Answers)

Example Calculation

Suppose a candidate attempted:

- Correct Answers = 62
- Incorrect Answers = 18

Then:

$$62 - (0.25/18) = 62 - 4.5 = 57.5$$

✅ **Estimated Raw Score = 57.5**

◆ What Is a Percentile Score?

A percentile score reflects a candidate's relative performance compared to other test-takers.

It indicates the percentage of candidates who scored lower than a particular candidate.

📌 Important Note

A percentile score is not the same as percentage marks.

For example, a 95 percentile does not mean the candidate scored 95% marks. It means the candidate performed better than 95% of all candidates who appeared for the examination.

Understanding Percentile Calculation

📊 Percentile Formula

Percentile Score = $(Y / N) \times 100$ Where:

- Y = Number of candidates who scored lower than you
- N = Total number of candidates who appeared for the exam

📌 Example of Percentile Calculation

If 23,710 candidates appeared and a candidate scored higher than 12,500 students:

$$\text{Percentile} = (12,500 / 23,710) \times 100 = 52.72$$

This means the candidate performed better than approximately 52.72% of all test-takers.

TANCET Marks vs Percentile Analysis

The following table provides an estimated comparison between actual marks and expected percentile scores based on previous years' trends.

⚠️ These values are indicative and may vary depending on the exam difficulty level, competition, and overall candidate performance in TANCET 2026.

Estimated TANCET MBA Percentile Mapping

Actual Marks Range	Estimated Percentile Range
70 – 75	99 – 100
60 – 69	95 – 98
50 – 59	85 – 94
40 – 49	70 – 84
30 – 39	50 – 69
20 – 29	30 – 49
10 – 19	10 – 29
0 – 9	Below 10

Score Interpretation

- 70+ marks generally place candidates among top rank holders.
- 60+ marks offer excellent chances for premier colleges.
- 50+ marks are considered competitive for many reputed institutions.
- Scores below 30 may reduce opportunities in top-tier colleges.

Expected College Cutoffs

Top MBA institutions in Tamil Nadu usually require high percentile scores during admissions.

The following cutoff ranges are based on historical admission trends.

Expected MBA Cutoffs for Top Colleges

Institution	Expected Percentile Cutoff
University of Madras, Chepauk	98 – 99
PSG College of Technology, Coimbatore	97 – 99
Loyola Institute of Technology, Chennai	95 – 97
Thiagarajar School of Management, Madurai	94 – 96
Kumaraguru College of Technology, Coimbatore	92 – 95

Key Insight

A percentile score above 95 significantly improves the chances of securing admission to highly reputed MBA institutions in Tamil Nadu.

TANCET Tie-Breaking Rules

In some cases, multiple candidates secure the same percentile score.

To ensure fair ranking during counselling, the Directorate of Technical Education (DTE), Chennai follows a structured tie-breaking process.

Tie-Breaking Criteria

Academic Performance

Candidates with a higher average percentage in their qualifying degree examinations (from Semester 1 to Semester N-1) are given preference.

Age Priority

If the tie still persists:

- The older candidate is ranked higher.
- The date of birth mentioned in SSLC records is considered.

Role of Percentile in Admissions

The counselling and admission process conducted by the Directorate of Technical Education is largely based on percentile scores rather than actual marks.

Important Admission Facts

- ✓ Percentile determines the counselling rank.
- ✓ Actual marks are not directly used during seat allotment.
- ✓ Higher percentile scores increase the chances of admission to top colleges.
- ✓ Tie-breaking rules are applied when candidates secure identical percentile scores.

Final Thoughts

Understanding the relationship between TANCET marks and percentile scores helps candidates set realistic preparation goals and admission expectations.

A good preparation strategy should focus not only on increasing raw scores but also on improving overall relative performance compared to other aspirants.

Consistent mock test practice, accuracy improvement, and smart time management can significantly enhance percentile performance.

Recommended Target Scores

Goal	Suggested Target
Top Government Colleges	65+ Marks
Good Tier-2 Colleges	50+ Marks
Safe Admission Chances	40+ Marks

Quick Summary

- ✓ Actual Marks represent the raw score obtained in the exam.
- ✓ Percentile reflects relative performance among all candidates.
- ✓ Admissions are primarily based on percentile rank.
- ✓ A 95+ percentile is considered excellent for top MBA colleges.
- ✓ Tie-breaking depends on academic performance and age.

Best Wishes for TANCET 2026

Analyse your marks carefully, compare expected percentile ranges, and shortlist colleges strategically based on previous cutoff trends.