

Chapter 5 – Testing

Overview

Background

The State Board of Education (SBE) is committed to setting high standards for individuals entering the teaching profession. Since 1960, the National Teachers' Examination (NTE) has been required for teacher education graduates as one of the conditions for earning a license. The SBE believes this test is only one factor to use in the licensing process.

Policy requires that the testing data for each NC institution of higher education's (IHE's) students be made available to the IHE for examining the effectiveness of its program and for providing an additional factor for consideration in recommending individual graduates for licensing.

Since 1964, a minimum score on the NTE has been a State Board of Education requirement for initial licensing.

During the 1980's, Educational Testing Services (ETS) developed a new series of assessments--the Praxis tests. The term "Praxis" comes from the Greek for "putting theory into practice." Effective July 1, 1994, the first Praxis assessments were required in North Carolina. **(See SBE Policy Q-A-003)**

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The Praxis Series Descriptions

Praxis I: Academic Skills Assessments

Praxis I Academic Skills Assessments are to be taken early in the college career to measure reading, writing, and mathematical skills. Praxis I is required by North Carolina colleges and universities to meet the entry requirements for approved education programs in North Carolina. **(See SBE Policy QP-A-003, 3.00)**

Praxis II: Subject Assessments

The Praxis II Subject Assessments measure the knowledge of the subjects prospective teachers will teach. They also measure subject-specific pedagogical skills. In many subject areas, the Praxis Series offers several different tests so that states can select those that best meet their requirements. **(See SBE Policy QP-A-003, 3.10)**

Testing Policies

Policy

The Praxis Series is the required testing program in North Carolina. Test scores must be properly authenticated and without qualifications, reservations, or irregularities. Any license issued on the basis of a fraudulent test score is null and void.

Teacher education program entry requirements

Undergraduate degree-seeking students must satisfactorily complete the Praxis I (Pre-Professional Skills Test [PPST] or Computer Based Test [CBT]) for formal admission to approved teacher education programs in North Carolina IHEs. The required scores follow:

PPST Reading	176
PPST Writing	173
PPST Mathematics	173 OR

Required combined score of 522

CBT Reading	323
CBT Writing	319
CBT Mathematics	318

Individuals with a total SAT score of 1100 are exempt from Praxis I testing requirements for teacher education program admission.

Individuals with a total SAT score of less than 1100, but who have a score of at least 550 on the Verbal test, are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Tests in Reading and Writing for teacher education program admission.

Individuals with a total SAT score of less than 1100, but who have a score of at least 550 on the Math test, are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Test in Mathematics for teacher education program admission.

Individuals with a composite ACT score of 24 are exempt from Praxis I testing requirements for teacher education program admission.

Individuals with a composite ACT score of less than 24, but who have a score of at least 24 on the English test, are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Tests in Reading and Writing for teacher education program admission.

Individuals with a composite ACT score of less than 24, but who have a score of at least 24 on the Math test, are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Test in Mathematics for teacher education program admission.

(See SBE Policy QP-A-003, 3.00)

Specialty area test scores

If a test is required for the license area, applicants for a license must meet the North Carolina minimum test score requirements in effect at the time they qualify and apply for licensure.

Testing Policies

Initial graduates prior to July 1, 1996

Applicants applying for their first North Carolina license who have met requirements for licensure prior to July 1, 1996 (this includes testing requirements), can be issued a license without additional testing. Test scores must have met North Carolina test requirements at the time program requirements for licensure were met.

Test scores from other states

North Carolina accepts content area test scores for teaching areas from other states for Highly Qualified (HQ) purposes at the time the teacher applies for an initial North Carolina license.

Adding areas to an existing license

Individuals who hold a clear teaching license in one area can add an additional teaching area to the license by

- completing an **approved teacher education program** in the additional area **AND**
- meeting the **federal Highly Qualified (HQ) requirement** in the additional teaching area **OR**
- satisfying **Praxis II testing requirements** for the additional area.

Individuals completing programs through the Regional Alternative Licensure Centers **must** satisfy Praxis II testing requirements to add the area to the license.

Individuals adding administrative and/or student services areas must satisfy the Praxis II testing requirements for these areas in addition to completing an approved program. **(See SBE Policy QP-A-003, 3.20)**

School Leaders Licensure Assessment test requirements

North Carolina has adopted the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) as the required administrator license exam **(See G.S. 115C-284.C)**.

Effective September 12, 2009, all administrator licenses issued require a passing score of 163 on the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (Praxis II test 1011).

Exemptions to administrator license test requirements

Applicants who at any time between January 1, 1993 and December 31, 1997, obtained or renewed an administrator/supervisor license in any state are exempt from this requirement.

Testing Requirements for the NC Professional Educator’s License

Requirements Effective September 2010

The Praxis Series is the standard test requirement for licensing in North Carolina. Some licensure areas require one Praxis II subject test while others require two Praxis II subject tests.

The following pages list the tests and scores required for each area of licensure.

Initial Applicants

Submit scores for the required Praxis II subject test(s) for one licensure area, even if eligible for more than one area. [If one of the areas is school administration, applicants must satisfy the testing requirement for that area].

NOTE: NTE tests taken prior to July 1, 1996, can be accepted if they met North Carolina’s test regulations at the time an approved education program was completed and the test was taken. (School administrators must meet current requirements.)

License Holders Adding an Area of Licensure

- Individuals who hold a clear, non-restricted teaching license in one area can add an additional teaching area to the license by completing an approved teacher education program at a regionally accredited college or university in the additional area and meeting the federal requirement to be “highly qualified” in the additional teaching area, or by satisfying Praxis II testing requirements for the additional area, or by completing 24 hours in the subject area with a grade of C or better in the subject area. Individuals who hold a clear teaching license can also add a language area to the license by earning a rating of at least “Intermediate High” proficiency on the ACTFL (American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages) Oral Proficiency Test, and if available, the Writing Proficiency Test.
- Individuals adding administrative and/or student services areas must satisfy the Praxis II testing requirements for these areas in addition to completing an approved teacher education program at a regionally accredited college or university.

Test scores must be submitted on original or excellent-quality copies of original report forms provided by Educational Testing Service. Licensing action taken as a result of test scores discovered to be fraudulent becomes null and void, and may be cause for license revocation.

Testing Requirements

Requirements

The current testing requirements established by the State Board of Education follow.

Praxis Testing Requirements for the North Carolina License Effective July 1, 2003

Area of Licensure	Code	Required Tests	Required Score on Subject Assessment
<i>Special Service Personnel</i>			
School Administrator – Superintendent	011	School Leaders Licensure Assessment	163
School Administrator – Principal	012	School Leaders Licensure Assessment	163
Curriculum-Instructional Specialist	113	0411	145 effective 9/1/10
Instructional Technology Specialist – Computers	077	none	n/a
Media Supervisor	078	0411	145 effective 9/1/10
Career-Technical Education Director	711	0411	145 effective 9/1/10
Exceptional Children Program Administrator	88099	0411	145 effective 9/1/10
Counselor	005	0420	570
School Social Worker	006	none	n/a
School Psychologist	026	0401	159
Instructional Technology Specialist – Telecommunications	074	none	n/a
Media Coordinator	076	0310	148
Audiologist	88003	0340	590
Speech-Language Pathologist	88082	0330	550
<i>Preschool/Elementary</i>			
Birth through Kindergarten	014	None* * Although no test is required for the Birth-Kindergarten (B-K) license, B-K teachers may be designated "highly qualified" to teach kindergarten by earning a score of 155 or higher on Praxis test 0022 Early Childhood: Content Knowledge.	n/a*
Elementary (K-6)	025	0011 and 0012	313 (total score)
Preschool Add-on	015	none	n/a

<i>Middle Grades (Grades 6-9)</i>			
Language Arts	78180	0049	145
Mathematics	78200	0069	141
Science	78300	0439	134
Social Studies	78400	0089	149
Agriculture	78700	none	none
Business	78760	none	none
Health Occupations	78720	none	none
Family & Consumer Sciences	78710	none	none
Marketing	78730	none	none
Technology	78820	none	none
<i>Secondary (Grades 9-12)</i>			
Anthropology	433	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
Bible	905	none	n/a
Biology	310	0235 & 0234	302 (total score)
Chemistry	330	0245 & 0483	307 (total score)
Earth Science	302	0571	136
Economics	431	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
English	100	0041 & 0043	321 (total score)
French	510	5174	162 effective 9/1/10
Geography	410	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
German	530	5183	163 effective 9/1/10
History	420	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
Latin	590	600	570
Mathematics	200	0061 & 0065	281 (total score)
Physics	320	pending	pending
Political Science	405	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
Russian	580	none	n/a
Science (Comprehensive)	300	0435 & either 0483 or 0234	0435 & 0483 = 305 (total score) 0435 & 0234 = 303 (total score)
Social Studies (Comprehensive)	400	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
Sociology	432	0081 & 0084	320 (total score)
Spanish	520	5195	168 effective 9/1/10

<i>Special Subject Areas (K-12)</i>			
Art	810	0131 & 0133	322 (total score)
Dance	805	none	n/a
English as a Second Language	110	0361	141 effective 9/1/10
French	511	5174	162 effective 9/1/10
German	531	5183	163 effective 9/1/10
Health Specialist	098	0550	640
Junior ROTC	999	none	n/a
Music	800	0111 & 0113	299 (total score)
Physical Education	090	0091	152
Reading (bachelor's level)	190	0204	159 effective 9/1/10
Reading (graduate level)	190	0300	570
Safety and Driver Education	096	none	n/a
Spanish	521	5195	168 effective 9/1/10
Speech Communication	109	0221	560
Theater Arts	108	none	n/a
<i>Exceptional Children (Grades K-12)</i>			
Special Education: General Curriculum	88091	0511	148
		0543	158 effective 9/1/10
Special Education: Adapted Curriculum	88092	0511	148
		0545	158 effective 9/1/10
Academically Gifted	88087	none	none
*Behaviorally/Emotionally Disabled	88085	0511	148
		0371	147
*Cross Categorical	88001	0511	148
		0354	151 effective 9/1/10
Hearing Impaired	88088	none	n/a
*Mentally Disabled	88081	0511	148
		0321	144
*Severely Profoundly Mentally Disabled	88082	0511	148
		0321	144
*Learning Disabled	88086	0511	148
		0381	139
Visually Impaired	88083	0281	135 effective 9/1/10

<i>Career-Technical Education</i>			
Agriculture Education	700	none	n/a
Career Development Coordinator	747	none	n/a
Handicapped/Disadvantaged	770	none	n/a
Health Occupations Education	720	none	n/a
Family & Consumer Sciences	710	0121	148
Marketing Education	730	0561	169
Technology Education	820	0050	580
Trade and Industrial Education	740	none	n/a
Business Education	760	0101	154 effective 9/1/10

Questions about administration of the tests should be addressed to The Praxis Series, Educational Testing Services, P.O. Box 6051, Princeton, New Jersey 08541-6051. Phone: 609-771-7395. Fax: 609-530-0581 or 609-771-7906. E-mail: praxis@ets.org.

* Independent Scoring Model: The individual must earn the required validated score on each module.