

The Basic Skills Assessment Requirements

ALL Teacher Certification Candidates must demonstrate competency in the basic skills (reading, mathematics, and writing). Multiple options are available to accomplish this.

- A. Pass the “basic skills” Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA) Tests administered by Pearson.** To pass the PAPA, examinees must take and meet the qualifying scores of all three modules. For information about the tests including registration and testing locations, go to <http://www.pa.nesinc.com>. **Register for PA701.** A composite scoring option is available, however your combined scores must total at least **633 points** and you must meet minimum scores for tests not passed.

Module 1 (Code 8001)	Reading	Passing Score: 220	Minimum: 193
Module 2 (Code 8002)	Mathematics	Passing Score: 193	Minimum: 176*
Module 3 (Code 8003)	Writing	Passing Score: 220	Minimum: 192

*Will accept 174 from candidates accepted into an educator certification program prior to 8/31/16

- B. Pass The Core Academic Skills for Educators (CORE) modules in Reading, Writing and Mathematics administered by ETS. Visit <https://www.ets.org/praxis/pa/requirements> to register for the tests.** A composite scoring option is available, however your combined scores must total at least **460 points** and you must meet minimum scores for tests not passed.

CORE Test 5712	Reading	Passing Score: 156	Minimum: 148
CORE Test 5732	Mathematics	Passing Score: 142	Minimum: 132
CORE Test 5722	Writing	Passing Score: 162	Minimum: 158

- C. Candidates may combine individual tests from different vendors (PAPA, CORE, SAT, and ACT) to meet the basic skills requirement.** Candidates electing to use tests from different vendors may use a composite score but must meet the qualifying minimum score for each individual test.

NOTE: Candidates who test outside of Pennsylvania should list both the Pennsylvania Department of Education and Moravian College as score recipients. PDE must receive your scores directly from the testing service before they will certify you.

- D. Students who, at the time of college matriculation, have achieved either of the following will be exempt from taking the PAPA/CORE exams:**

- 1. For SAT’s taken prior to March 1, 2016** - A score of no less than 500 in each category (Critical Reading, Writing, and Mathematics). For each category in which you score at least 500, you will be exempt from taking that Basic Skills Assessment Test. You may combine reading, writing & math module scores from different test administrators or sittings.
- 2. For SAT’s taken after February 29, 2016** - A passing score of 27 in Reading, 26 in Mathematics and 28 in Writing. For each category in which you meeting the passing score requirement, you will be exempt from taking that Basic Skills Assessment. To qualify for the composite scoring exemption, you must have a composite score of at least 81 and a minimum score of 25 in Reading, 24 in Mathematics and 26 in Writing and Language.
- 3. For ACT’s taken before Sept. 1, 2015** – Submit a help ticket with a copy of your full score report for a determination.
- 4. For ACT’s taken from Sept 1, 2015- Aug. 31, 2016-** A passing score of 22 in Reading (20 minimum), 21 in Writing (17 minimum) and 21 in Math (19 minimum). To qualify for the composite scoring exemption, you must have a composite score of at least 64.
- 5. For ACT’s taken after Aug. 31, 2016-** A passing score of 22 in Reading (20 minimum), 8 in Writing (7 minimum) and 21 in Math (19 minimum). To qualify for the composite scoring exemption, you must have a composite score of at least 51.

If you are not exempt, take the PAPA or CORE reading, writing, and math tests immediately in the freshman year. Pre-service teachers must successfully complete the pre-professional skill tests prior to enrolling in Stage 3 pre-student teaching courses. You must also pass these three tests in order for your student teaching application to be considered by the Teacher Education Committee. For current testing locations, check the testing services websites.

Additional Testing Requirements for Teacher Certification in Pennsylvania

In addition to the PAPA or CORE tests, all candidates for initial certification will be required to pass the **content area test(s)** corresponding to their specific certification area.

Students applying for an Instructional PK–12 (Art, Music, and Foreign Language) certificate must also pass **Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge** (5511) along with the appropriate Praxis II test(s). Students should take this test any time prior to student teaching.

Early Childhood Education (Pre-K-Grade 4) candidates will take all advanced tests thru PECT.
(http://www.pa.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_WhatTestsDoINeedToTake.html).

Students in all other certification areas will need to take **PRAXIS II tests administered thru ETS (Educational Testing Services)**. The tests you need to take are listed on the ETS website (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>). You can also register for the appropriate tests online at this website. It is recommended that students take the **content area test(s)** after taking most of the content and methods courses in your discipline but try to avoid taking the test during student teaching.

Financial Assistance Vouchers for PECT (PAPA) Testing

Fee waivers may be available for college students who meet the eligibility criteria indicated below. You may receive only one fee waiver per year.

To be eligible for a fee waiver, you must meet the following conditions:

- You must be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate degree program.
- You must be currently receiving financial aid.

To apply for a fee waiver, submit a completed form before registering to test. To download a form visit:
http://www.pa.nesinc.com/Content/Docs/PECT_FeeWaiverRequestForm.pdf

PECT (PAPA) Retake Voucher Guidelines

If a student is unable to pass the PECT tests, including any of the PAPA modules, a voucher may be requested on their behalf if the student meets the eligibility criteria.

To view eligibility criteria and apply for a PECT retake voucher, please visit:

<http://www.pa.nesinc.com/content/docs/voucher.pdf>

PRAXIS (CORE) Fee Waiver Request

Fee waivers may be available for college students who meet all eligibility criteria. If you qualify for a fee waiver, the test fees for up to three Praxis® Core tests, or one Praxis® Subject Assessment may be waived.

To be eligible for a fee waiver, you must:

1. Be currently receiving financial aid
2. Be enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program (**Note:** You are ineligible if you have a master's or a doctoral degree)
3. Meet eligibility income guidelines (below)
4. Be required to take a *Praxis* test by an authorized score recipient

To apply for a PRAXIS fee waiver request, please visit:

https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/cdt_fee_waiver_request.pdf