

Praxis II Requirement Frequently Asked Questions

Q. What is the language of the statute?

A. In May, SF 2284 was signed into law by Governor Branstad, amending Iowa Code 256.16 which states, "... the state board shall adopt rules requiring all higher education institutions providing practitioner preparation to do the following:" by replacing subsection 1, paragraph a, (2) with:

Administer, prior to a student's completion of the practitioner preparation program and subject to the director's approval, subject assessments designed by a nationally recognized testing service that measure pedagogy and knowledge of at least one subject area; or, a valid and reliable subject-area-specific, performance-based assessment for preservice teacher candidates, centered on student learning. A student shall not successfully complete the program unless the student achieves scores above the twenty-fifth percentile nationally on the assessments administered pursuant to this subparagraph."

Q. What is the basic requirement of this statute?

A. All candidates graduating after 1 January 2013 must pass an assessment in pedagogy and in content.

See the 09-18-2012 Letter to the Field on the Iowa Department of Education website Practitioner Preparation Page for more details:

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=535

Q. When does this requirement take effect?

A. It is effective for all teacher candidates graduating after 1 January 2013.

Q. Who is affected or not affected by this requirement?

A. All candidates seeking an initial license are subject to this requirement. Candidates seeking initial licensure and additional endorsements are only required to take one pedagogy test and one content test, a separate test for each endorsement is not required. Licensed teachers seeking additional endorsements will not be tested for added endorsement.

Q. Are there any exemptions?

A. Yes, elementary education candidates who have enrolled or taken the previously required 0011/5011 test may substitute the 0011/5011 for the PLT pedagogy test. The candidate must achieve the 26th percentile score of 165 on the 0011/5011 test. This exemption ends on 30 June 2013. See the 09-20-2012 Letter to the Field on the Iowa Department of Education website Practitioner Preparation Page for more details:

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=535

Q. Are candidates or practitioner preparation programs required to send scores to the Iowa Department of Education?

A. No

Q. Has the State set up more testing sites? What are the test sites?

A. The test sites and administration of the tests are managed by the Educational Testing Service, not by the State of Iowa. The Iowa DE has provided ETS with information about how many candidates to expect per IHE (based on Title II reporting). The information provided also shows which test centers are located closest to each IHE. ETS has added days to the windows for computer based testing. ETS will work with test centers to add capacity for paper based tests. ETS has not added test sites at this time.

Current test sites are:

Computer-based Test Sites

- Bettendorf, Prometric Testing Center
- Cedar Falls, University of Northern Iowa
- Iowa City, University of Iowa
- Sioux City, Western Iowa Tech Community College
- West Des Moines, Prometric Testing Center

Paper-based Test Sites

- Ames, Iowa State University
- Cedar Falls, University of Northern Iowa
- Decorah, Luther College
- Dubuque, Clarke University
- Forest City, Waldorf College
- Ft Dodge, Iowa Central Community College
- Iowa City, University of Iowa
- Lamoni, Graceland University
- Orange City, Northwestern College
- Ottumwa, Indian Hills Community College
- Sioux City, Briar Cliff University
- Storm Lake, Buena Vista University

Q What are dates testes are available?

A. Test dates are available on the ETS website. They are also listed here:

Test Dates 2012-2013:

Paper and Pencil Administrations:

- September 22, 2012
- November 3, 2012
- January 26, 2013
- April 13, 2013
- June 8, 2013

- July 20, 2013

Computer Testing Windows:

- September 10-15, 2012
- October 8-13, 2012
- December 17-22, 2012
- February 4-9, 2013
- March 18-23, 2013
- April 29 – May 4, 2013
- July 29 – August 3, 2013

Q. Does this requirement affect the testing requirement for acceptance into a teacher education program?

A. No. The current chapter 79 rules are in effect.

Q. Does this requirement preclude a candidate from graduating with a degree in education?

A. No. It requires a passing score in pedagogy and content, in addition to the completion of the teacher education program, in order for the candidate to be licensed in Iowa.

Q. Is this requirement also in effect for candidates recommended from out of state institutions?

A. Yes.

Q. Where do I find test and passing score requirements?

A. The current requirements are posted on the Iowa Department of Education Website under Practitioner Preparation:

http://educateiowa.gov/index.php?option=com_content&task=view&id=477&Itemid=535

Scroll down to: Required Test & Qualifying Scores

Q: How do I get answers to questions about Praxis tests specifically?

A: Go to the ETS Praxis website Frequently Asked Questions:

http://www.ets.org/praxis/faq_test_takers/