

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding *Praxis* Subject Assessment/ Content Testing in Nebraska

Effective September 1, 2015, individuals must provide evidence they have taken the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment Content Test and passed at the NE-required score before a new endorsement(s) can be placed on a Nebraska Teaching Certificate. Nebraska uses *Praxis* Subject Assessments/Content Tests from Educational Testing Service (ETS), Princeton, NJ.

1. How do I know which *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test to take to meet Nebraska Content Testing requirements?

The list of required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Tests is available on the NDE website at:

<http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/IHE/SkillsTesting/ContentTestScores.pdf>.

Individuals applying for a Nebraska Teaching or Administrative Certificate will have to take and pass the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test for each listed endorsement area in order to have the endorsement(s) placed on their NE Teaching Certificate.

- NOTE: Those with both Elementary Education and Special Education endorsements are required to take and pass both the appropriate Elementary Education content test and the appropriate Special Education content test.

2. When should I take the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

Individuals should consult with their preparation institution to determine the institution's requirements regarding *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Testing. Check the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test testing schedule on the ETS *Praxis* website to determine testing centers and dates when tests are available. (https://www.ets.org/praxis/register/centers_dates)

3. Do I need to pass the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test to complete my Teacher Education preparation program?

Check with your institution teacher preparation program regarding this. The Nebraska Department of Education requires a passing score on the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test to have an endorsement placed on a regular Nebraska teaching or administrative certificate.

4. Is every teacher required to take and pass a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

Those teachers certified in Nebraska prior to September 1, 2015 are not required to take and pass a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test unless they are adding an endorsement or adding an additional grade level to their current regular NE Teaching Certificate.

- Example 1: A currently-certified NE principal with the Principal 7-12 endorsement who did not ever take a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test, but wants to add the Principal K-6 level to their regular certificate endorsements on or after September 1, 2015 must take and pass the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test to add the Principal K-6 endorsement to their regular current certificate.
- Example 2: A currently-certified NE teacher with a Chemistry 7-12 teaching endorsement who wants to add a Science 7-12 field endorsement to their regular certificate on or after September 1, 2015 must take and pass the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test to add the Science 7-12 endorsement to their regular current certificate.

Those applying for a NE Teaching or Administrative Certificate for the first time, on or after September 1, 2015 must provide evidence they have taken and passed the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test. Not all endorsements require a content test. See <http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/IHE/SkillsTesting/ContentTestScores.pdf>.

5. How are passing scores determined?

Panels of Nebraska educators determined the initial designation of passing scores. As ETS updates *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Tests, Multi-State Standard Setting (MSSS) panels are called to establish passing scores, which Nebraska may elect to adopt. Score data will be collected by NDE and reviewed periodically.

6. What if I do not pass the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

Those who do not obtain the NE required score on the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test have the option of retaking the test multiple times. (See *Praxis* Test Retake policies on the ETS website: www.ets.org/Praxis).

7. How does one register to take a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

Register at www.ets.org/Praxis. Make sure to choose the correct test number and title of the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test needed for the corresponding endorsement. Please be certain to correctly spell your name and provide your correct Social Security number, as failure to do so will delay processing of your certificate application in Nebraska. Note that not all tests are offered during all testing windows.

8. How can I be certain my scores are reported to the correct institution and to NDE?

If you take a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test at a Nebraska testing center, scores are automatically reported to the Nebraska Department of Education. If you test outside of Nebraska, you MUST indicate the Nebraska Department of Education as one of your score recipients during the test registration process. ETS allows four score recipients at no additional charge. You must also designate your 'Attending Institution' for scores to be reported to your institution.

9. Will my *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test score(s) be valid in other states?

Each state has different certification requirements. Information about requirements in other states that use ETS *Praxis* tests is available on the ETS website (www.ets.org).

10. What if I want/need to have my *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test scores sent to a different state?

Due to privacy laws, NDE cannot disclose score information to others. During the test registration process, indicate the other states you want/need to have your scores sent to, or contact ETS directly to request your scores be sent to another state.

11. Where can I get study materials to prepare for the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

A variety of free test preparation materials, including a 'Study Companion' and other resources are available on the ETS *Praxis* website: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials>. Additional study materials are available for purchase. Educator preparation programs may also have study materials available.

12. Are testing accommodations available for those with disabilities?

Yes, as long as the appropriate documentation is on file with ETS. Allow at least 6-8 weeks for the process. Accommodations include taking the test in paper/pencil format, extra time, etc. (http://www.ets.org/disabilities/test_takers)

13. I am currently completing a supplemental endorsement. Do I have to take a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

At this time, supplemental endorsements do not require a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test. See <http://www.education.ne.gov/EducatorPrep/IHE/SkillsTesting/ContentTestScores.pdf>

14. Are *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Tests required for the Dual Credit, Career Education, or Substitute Teacher Permits?

No, not at this time.

15. I have recently completed a Nebraska or out-of-state teacher education program and have met the college requirements for an endorsement. Am I required to take the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

Yes. In order to have the endorsement placed on your first Nebraska certificate, you will need to pass Nebraska tests and meet the Nebraska required passing score. You may be eligible for a Provisional Permit allowing you to be employed while completing testing requirements.

16. My regular Nebraska teaching certificate has expired, and I want to get it reinstated. Am I required to take and pass a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

There is no testing requirement to reinstate endorsements that were held on a previous Nebraska regular teaching certificate. If you are adding new endorsements in the process of reinstating a certificate, there may be a *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content test requirement.

17. I took a previous version of the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test, and now the revised version is required. Will my passing score on the previous version meet NDE requirements?

Yes, as long as you have an official score report with the test listed by name and number and you meet the required score on the previous version.

- Example: EECIA 5011 or 0011 is the previous version of EECIA 5017, which is now required. If you took and passed EECIA 5011 or 0011 with a score of 159 or higher, you do not have to take EECIA 5017. (The required score for EECIA 5017 is 153.)

18. I passed the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test in another state. Must I take the same test again?

If you submit your official score report, and met Nebraska's required score, you do not have to take the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test again.

19. I am a veteran teacher from another state. Do I need to take the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test(s)?

Yes. In order to have endorsements from another state be placed on a regular Nebraska certificate, you must pass the Nebraska tests and obtain the score required by Nebraska. There is an option to obtain a Provisional Permit which would allow you to be employed while completing testing requirements.

20. I passed a different content test in another state and hold a regular teaching certificate from that state. Do I need to take the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

Yes. In order to have endorsements from another state be placed on a regular Nebraska certificate, you will need to pass Nebraska tests and obtain the score required by Nebraska. There is an option to obtain a Provisional Permit which would allow you to be employed while completing testing requirements.

21. Will teaching experience fulfill the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test requirement?

No.

22. I have completed two endorsement programs, but have only passed one of the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Tests. Can I still get a Nebraska teaching certificate?

Yes, with the one endorsement for which you passed the *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test listed. You can add an endorsement to your certificate when you have successfully completed the additional test requirement as long as you submit an application for adding an endorsement and pay the required fee, or you can add the additional endorsement to your certificate when you apply for renewal of your Nebraska teaching certificate.

23. I have a Nebraska Provisional teaching permit. When do I have to complete the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

You are required to pass the content test before a full endorsement can be placed on a regular Nebraska certificate.

24. I have a Provisional endorsement on my regular Nebraska teaching certificate. When do I have to complete the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

A passing score on the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test must be obtained before the new endorsement can be placed on a regular Nebraska certificate.

25. I have a Provisional Commitment Certificate (issued prior to September 1, 2015) or an Alternative Program permit. When do I have to complete the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

The Provisional Commitment or Alternative Program permits allow a person to complete the content test deficiency during the period of the certificate/permit. A passing score must be obtained on the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test before a full endorsement can be placed on a regular Nebraska certificate.

26. I have a Provisional Special Education endorsement. When do I have to complete the required *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test?

A passing score must be obtained on the appropriate *Praxis* Subject Assessment/Content Test before a full endorsement can be placed on a regular Nebraska certificate.

27. I have a Principal endorsement on my current Nebraska Administrative Certificate and have now completed the Superintendent endorsement. Must I take the required test for the Superintendent endorsement?

Yes, if you want to add the Superintendent endorsement to your Nebraska Administrative Certificate on or after September 1, 2015.

NOTE: The Every Student Succeeds Act (ESSA) has eliminated the 'highly qualified teacher' requirements; therefore, the 2015-16 school year will be the last year for verification of NCLB Qualified Status. This means that, beginning with the 2016-17 school year, processes related to being designated as NCLB Qualified will no longer be required, including HOUSS application forms and *Praxis* II EECIA (Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment) test requirements for new-to-the-profession elementary special education and early childhood teachers.

Additional information available: *Frequently Asked Questions About The Praxis Series Tests* by ETS. (http://www.ets.org/praxis/faq_test_takers/)