

ADMISSION TO TEACHER EDUCATION



SATISFACTORY TEST SCORES



Tennessee State Department of Education Requirement

According to the Tennessee State Board of Education, Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators (5.105), "Individuals applying for an initial educator license in Tennessee shall submit passing scores on an assessment that measures professional knowledge and is correlated to Tennessee's professional education standards." The policy states, "Educator preparation programs may admit candidates who present qualifying scores on the following assessments, in addition to other required admissions criteria."

What are the state approved qualifying scores for admission to Teacher Education?

*Students who have earned qualifying scores for the ACT and/or SAT are exempt from the Core tests.

PRAXIS Core Tests	ACT	SAT
Math - 150	Composite - 22	Composite - 1080
Reading - 156		
Writing - 162		

How do I know what test(s) to take?

Test	Cost	Difficulty	Test Availability	Retake Options
ACT	\$50.50	"Praxis Core Math and Reading are not as challenging as Math and Reading on the ACT"; Core Writing Essay component is harder than the ACT, but MTSU does not require ACT Writing test	Offered 7x/yr - Sept., Oct., Dec., Feb., April., June, & July	Up to 12 times
Praxis Core	\$150 combined / \$90 per test		Offered once a month or more between MTSU and Nashville	Unlimited; must wait 21 days

How do I register for the test(s)?

Praxis Core Tests	www.ets.org/praxis (click "Register for a Test" under Quick Links), and know in advance if you are taking it <u>combined</u> or <u>separate</u>
ACT	www.act.org (click on dropdown menu "Information for -" and select Students + Parents, scroll down and click on See All Test Dates, Online Registration will be on the left toolbar)

What is the length of each test?

PRAXIS Core Tests	ACT
Math, Reading, Writing Combined - 300 minutes (5 hrs.)	175 minutes
-or-	*Each section of the ACT takes between 30-60 minutes
Math - 85 minutes	
Reading - 85 minutes	
Writing - 100 minutes	

What if I need accommodations?

Praxis Core Tests	www.ets.org/praxis/register/disabilities
ACT	www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration/accommodations.html

Because of required documentation from physicians and other medically certified individuals, start the accommodation process quickly. At times, the process has taken a calendar year for approval.

PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS TESTS

WHAT SHOULD I KNOW ABOUT THESE TESTS?

These tests measure academic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. They were designed to provide comprehensive assessments that measure the skills and content knowledge of candidates entering teacher preparation programs. All skills assessed have been identified as needed for college and career readiness. The tests are delivered on computer and may be taken either as three separate tests on separate days or as one combined test. **The combined test code is 5752.**

CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS: READING (TEST CODE: 5713; QUALIFYING SCORE: 156)

The Core Reading test includes sets of questions that require the integration and analysis of multiple documents, as well as some alternate response types, e.g., select-in-passage.

Time	85 minutes
Number of Questions	56 selected-response questions
Format	Selected-response questions based on reading passages and statements

Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
Key Ideas and Details	17-22	35%
Craft, Structure, and Language Skills	14-19	30%
Integration of Knowledge and Ideas	17-22	35%

CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS: WRITING (TEST CODE: 5723; QUALIFYING SCORE: 162)

The Core Writing test assesses both argumentative writing and informative/explanatory writing, and will contain one writing task for each writing type. In addition, multiple-choice questions will be added to address the importance of research strategies and assess strategies for revising and improving text.

Time	100 minutes total: 40-minute selected response section and two 30-minute essay sections
Number of Questions	40 selected-response questions and two essay questions
Format	Selected-response questions involving usage, sentence correction, revision in context, and research skills; 2 essay topics as the basis for writing samples

Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
Text Types, Purposes, and Production	6-12 selected-response; 2 essay	60%
Language and Research Skills for Writing	28-34 selected-response	40%

CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS: MATH (TEST CODE: 5733; QUALIFYING SCORE: 150)

The Core Mathematics test includes numeric entry and multiple choice questions, and will also offer an on-screen calculator to help ensure that questions are testing mathematical reasoning by reducing the chance that a candidate's wrong response comes from a simple arithmetic error.

Time	85 minutes
Number of Questions	56
Format	Selected-response questions—select one answer choice; selected-response questions—select two or more answer choices; numeric entry questions

Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
Number and Quantity	17	30%
Algebra and Functions	17	30%
Geometry	11	20%
Statistics and Probability	11	20%

TEST PREPARATION

Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests

The *Praxis* tests are demanding enough to require serious review of likely content, and the longer you have been away from the content the more preparation you will most likely need. If it has been longer than a few months since you've studied your content area, you will want to make a concerted effort to prepare for the *Praxis* tests.

1. Collect study materials.

Obtaining and organizing your materials for review are critical steps in preparing for the *Praxis* tests. Consider the following reference sources as you plan your study:

- Did you take a course in which the content area was covered? If yes, do you still have your book(s) or your notes?
 - ◊ Core Mathematics: MATH 1010, MATH 1710
 - ◊ Core Writing: ENGL 1010, ENGL 1020
- Does your college library have a good introductory college-level textbook in this area?
- Does your local library have a high school-level textbook?

2. Plan and organize your time.

You can begin to plan and organize your time while you are still collecting materials. Allow yourself plenty of time to review so you can avoid “cramming” new material at the end.

- Choose a test date far enough in the future to leave you plenty of preparation time.
- Work backward from that date to figure out how much time you will need for review.
- Set a realistic schedule and **stick to it**.

Free *Praxis* Core Academic Skills for Educators Test Preparation Material

Subject / Resource	Website	Contents
Mathematics—ETS Study Companion	www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5733.pdf	Personalized study plan, study topics, sample test questions, test tips, understanding scoring, what to expect on test day
Writing—ETS Study Companion	www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5723.pdf	Personalized study plan, study topics, sample test questions, test tips, understanding scoring, what to expect on test day
Reading—ETS Study Companion	www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5713.pdf	Personalized study plan, study topics, sample test questions, test tips, understanding scoring, what to expect on test day
All Subjects—Khan Academy Instructional Support Videos and Exercises	www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/khan_academy.pdf	Videos and exercises to support test preparation. Each topic included in the test is mapped to a video and an exercises that may help students prepare to answer questions related to that topic.
Praxis Core for Dummies (all subjects)	www.dummies.com/test-prep/praxis	Online lessons, general questions, budgeting time while taking the tests, how-to basics (registering, preparing, etc.), practice topic questions

Student Working Document with Tips, Ideas, and Resources: https://docs.google.com/document/d/lnuL-vrnEF5fpKvkr-KEQmVL5q5AWq_YE4DSJJiQnz0c/edit?usp=sharing

Free ACT Test Preparation Material

ACT Supplied Test Prep	www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/test-preparation.html
Free Practice, study guides, flashcards	http://uniontestprep.com/act
Blog of suggested test prep websites	https://blog.prepscholar.com/the-best-act-prep-websites-you-should-be-using
Blog of suggested test prep websites	www.collegeraptor.com/getting-in/articles/act-sat/7-free-resources-for-act-sat-test-prep/
Test preparation courses	www.princetonreview.com/college/free-act-practice-test#!practice