

Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

Testing requirements listed for the “initial” or first Pennsylvania credential are identified in regulation. 22 Pa. Code § 49.18 (Assessment) requires an assessment of basic skills ([PAPA Reading, Writing and Mathematics](#)), professional knowledge and practice, subject matter knowledge, and for K-12 areas, assessment of general knowledge (Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge). Subsequent Pennsylvania credentials require only the subject matter knowledge or content test indicated for the certification area.

As of July 1, 2011, post-baccalaureate candidates in instructional certification programs are not required to take the PPSTs or PAPA.

For specific test codes, qualifying scores and replaced tests, please review [Certification, Testing and Scores](#).

Instructional I Certificate

- **Initial** Pennsylvania certification for **all K-12 areas**: Agriculture, Art, Business/Computer/Information Technology, Environmental Education, Family and Consumer Science, Health, Health and Physical Education, Library Science, Marketing Education, Music, Reading Specialist, Hearing Impaired, Speech & Language Impaired, Visually Impaired, Technology Education, and World Languages:

<u>TEST(S)</u>	<u>To register, go to:</u>
PAPA*: Reading Writing, Mathematics	www.pa.nesinc.com
Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge	http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa
Appropriate content area tests (Praxis II)	http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa

World Language note: PDE permits World Language certificate candidates the option of taking either the PRAXIS or the ACTFL tests, when both are available. If ACTFL is selected, candidates should take the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) or Oral Proficiency Interview by Computer (OPIc) and the Written Proficiency Test (WPT). Mandarin must be taken for the Chinese language exams(s). The minimum proficiency level required to qualify for certification is Intermediate High (IH) for each ACTFL test. Applicants whose education was not in the U.S. and whose native language is not English must also complete the ACTFL English OPI or OPIc with a score of Advanced Mid (AM). ACTFL tests are available through Language Testing International at <http://www.languagetesting.com/academic-services>.

- Initial certification for **Grades PreK-4, Special Education PreK-8 or Special Education 7-12:**

PAPA*: Reading, Writing, Mathematics	www.pa.nesinc.com
PECT test(s) for the certificate(s) (multiple modules)	www.pa.nesinc.com

- Initial certification for **Grades 4-8:**

PAPA*: Reading, Writing, Mathematics	www.pa.nesinc.com
Grades 4-8 Core Assessment Test (3 modules)	http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa
Grades 4-8 Concentration Tests (one per subject area)	http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa

Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

- Initial certification for **secondary certificates (grades 7 through 12):**

PAPA*: Reading, Writing, Mathematics

www.pa.nesinc.com

Appropriate content area test for secondary subject(s)

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

Instructional Intern Certificate

Instructional Interns must pass the content area test(s) required for Instructional I certification.

Instructional Add-Ons

Individuals holding a Pennsylvania Instructional I, Instructional II or Pennsylvania Intern certificate may add most other Instructional areas by taking and passing the appropriate content area test and then submitting an application to the Bureau. All other certificate holders may **not** add on to their certificates using this method.

Instructional areas that may NOT be added by using the test only include: Cooperative Education, Health and Physical Education, Reading Specialist and all Special Education areas. Completion of an approved program and the appropriate subject assessment test are required to add an excluded Instructional area, Educational Specialist, Supervisory or Administrative certificate.

Educational Specialist Certificate

- Initial Pennsylvania certification for **Elementary Counselor, Secondary Counselor, School Psychologist:**

PAPA*: Reading, Writing, Mathematics

www.pa.nesinc.com

Appropriate content area test**

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

- Initial Pennsylvania certification for **School Nurse, Home and School Visitor, Instructional Technology Specialist:**

PAPA*: Reading, Writing, Mathematics

www.pa.nesinc.com

**Educational Specialist candidates with a baccalaureate degree who hold a current and valid Pennsylvania license as a counselor, dental hygienist, psychologist, registered nurse, or social worker can provide a copy of this valid Pennsylvania license as part of their application for the related Pennsylvania Educational Specialist certification area. Holders of these valid appropriate licenses are not required to take any tests to receive the related certification.

Administrative & Supervisory Certificates

- Principal and Vocational Administrative Director Administrative Certificate (effective 1/1/2013):

School Leadership Licensure Assessment Educational Leadership (SLLA): Administration and Supervision test (1011 or 6011).
<http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

- Supervisor and Supervisor of Vocational Education Certificate:

Educational Leadership: Administration and Supervision (0411)

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

- Superintendent and Intermediate Unit Director Letter of Eligibility (effective 1/1/2013):

School Superintendent Assessment [SSA] (6021) <http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

Testing Requirements by Certificate Type

Vocational Certificates

- Vocational Intern

Vocational interns must complete the Occupational Competency Assessment (OCA) through an approved vocational instructional program provider under “Vocational Instruction (7-12)”

- Vocational I:

PPST: Reading, Writing

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

Occupational Competency Assessment (OCA) must be completed through an approved vocational instructional program provider under “Vocational Instruction (7-12)”

- Vocational II:

PPST Mathematics or the Vocational General Knowledge test (0890) if taken prior to 9/1/2008 and within ten years of the date of application.

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/pa>

- Vocational Add-Ons

Vocational Intern, Vocational I or Vocational II certificate holders may add most other vocational areas by taking and passing the appropriate OCA. Cooperative Education may NOT be added. Completion of an approved program and the subject assessment test are required to add this area.

Basic Skills Assessment Requirement – SAT or ACT as Alternative to PAPA

Effective September 1, 2013 examinations meeting the basic skills requirement include:

- The Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA) which contains modules in Reading, Writing and Mathematics that was adopted as of April 2, 2012.
- The Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) may be accepted as of September 1, 2013 if the following is met at the time of matriculation:
 - A score of no less than 1550 with no individual section (Critical Reading, Writing, Mathematics) score of less than 500
- The American College Test (ACT) Plus Writing may be accepted as of September 1, 2013 if the following is met at the time of matriculation:
 - A composite score of 23 accompanied by a combined English/Writing score of 22 and a Math score of 21.
- Candidates using the Scholastic Achievement Test (SAT) or the American College Test (ACT) Plus Writing to meet the basic skills examination requirement may
 - combine section scores from different tests but may use the best score earned from one test administration.
 - use only the satisfactory scores achieved prior to matriculation in the college/university/approved program provider (i.e., while still in high school).
 - have test scores submitted officially to the Pennsylvania Department of Education Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality in an envelope sealed by the test vendor. Scores may also be verified by the Pennsylvania Approved Preparation Programs through TIMS.

A score of 1550 is consistent with research demonstrating correlations between SAT scores and college enrollment, first year grade point averages and college retention. Research demonstrates that students meeting the above score have a 65% probability of obtaining a first year grade point average of at least a B-. Additionally, Pennsylvania has adopted this college ready benchmark as an academic achievement indicator in the School Performance Profile utilized in K-12.