

**The Arkansas Department of Education
Educator Preparation News**

November 17, 2014

Praxis –Test Changes

Subject	Current Version	New Version	New Cut Score	State Review Date	Arkansas Launch Date
Early Childhood (for P-4 licensure)	5022	5025	TBA	TBA	9/1/2016
Elem Ed (K-6) - Math Subtest	5033	5003	157	9/18/2014	9/1/2015
Elem Ed (K-6) - Reading Language Arts Subtest	5032	5002	157	9/18/2014	9/1/2015
Family Consumer Sciences	5121	5122	153	9/18/2014	9/1/2015
Chemistry (for Physical Science)	NA	5245	150	NA	9/1/2015

Other Praxis news

- The Praxis website is the most up to date source for IHEs and candidates to ensure the correct tests are being used. All information was updated on July 21, 2014. <http://www.ets.org/praxis/ar/requirements>
- Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects – Test takers may now register for individual subtests without first having to take the combined test.
- Simplified registration – Candidates now choose a state for listing of tests (rather than searching by test name or the entire list), reducing the possibility that a candidate will pick the wrong test.
- Core Writing Test – Argumentative essay now scored by human reader and e-rater.
- Regenerated “Core Academic Skills for Educators” 2013-14 – Currently offered in windows, expecting continuous offering in early 2015.

Content Competencies

Competencies are available at <http://www.arkansased.org/divisions/human-resources-educator-effectiveness-and-licensure/educator-licensure-unit/educator-preparation/educator-competencies>

Also available are matrix templates for course alignment with competencies. These can be used when submitting revisions or new program proposals.

Science Licensure Changes

Starting fall 2015 candidates applying for Physical Science Licensure grades 7-12 will take the Physics (5265) or Chemistry (5245). Programs for Physical Science License will be discontinued in August 2016.

Beginning fall 2016*, it is anticipated that secondary science programs available will be Biology/Life Science, Chemistry, Physics, or Physics/Mathematics.

Dyslexia Therapist Endorsement

Educator Competencies and an alignment matrix have been completed and draft versions are available on the Educator Prep website. It is anticipated that programs for endorsement to a standard license will be available starting fall 2015*.

The competencies will remain in a draft version until the end of spring semester. We anticipate minor changes as a result of the 2015 Legislative session.

*Licensure rules will be under revision in spring 2015 and the licensure changes will need to be approved.

Educator Preparation Program Policies

The policy, entitled *Arkansas Department of Education Policies Governing Programs to Educator Licensure Offered by Institutions of Higher Education in Arkansas* was effective September 1, 2014, in emergency status and will be in final status on December 30, 2014.

Score Substitutions

	Baccalaureate Programs		
	Praxis Core	ACT (after 1989)	SAT(after 2005)
Composite		24	1650
Reading	156	22	510
Math	150	22	510
Writing	162		510
		English/ Writing 22	

Post-Baccalaureate Programs			
GRE (after 2011)	GRE (before 2011)	LSAT	MCAT(after 2013)
		Minimum Score of 149	Minimum Average Score of 8.5
(Verbal) 142	(Verbal) 370		
(Quantitative) 142	(Quantitative) 370		
(Writing) 3.5	(Writing) 3.5		

Priority School Placement for field experiences

7.07.6 “Field experience and internship placements for candidates for educator licensure shall not include priority schools, public schools or school districts in academic distress, or school districts under administrative takeover for violations of the Standards for Accreditation of Arkansas Public Schools and School Districts.” – *Arkansas Department of Education Policies Governing Programs to Educator Licensure Offered by Institutions of Higher Education in Arkansas*

Under extreme circumstance, the Assistant Commissioner for Licensure may approve a waiver for this. An approval form is available from Karli Saracini, the Director of Licensure.

- Priority status of schools is now available at <https://adedata.arkansas.gov/arc/>.
- Be sure to have your placement personnel check this. They will need to check the specific school not just the district.
- Academic Distress and Takeover status may be obtained from Karli Saracini, the director of licensure, as needed.

Educator Preparation Program Approval

The Educator Preparation Section is continuing to accept proposals from IHEs for new programs or revised programs of study in compliance with the November 2013 changes in licensure. Beginning in fall

2015, all programs must comply with these November 2013 changes. Programs will no longer be able to accept candidates into the program after spring 2015. Affected programs will be removed from the approved programs matrix in August 2015. Two hundred seventy-four (274) programs of study were affected by these rule changes!

Program proposals for a fall semester 2015 implementation must be submitted by February 1, 2015, and programs for spring semester 2016 implementation must be submitted by July 1, 2015. Please refer to the *Protocols* to ensure deadlines are met for both ADE and ADHE submittals.

Letters of Intent (LOIs) are a required submission for public IHEs. These must be submitted to Lillian.Williams@adhe.edu for all new and revised programs. LOIs are due by December 1, 2014, for programs to be implemented in fall 2015. The LOI template is available at <http://www.adhe.edu/SiteCollectionDocuments/AcademicAffairsDivision/Letters%20of%20Intent.pdf>.

LOIs for independent IHEs can be sent directly to the ADE. The same template can be used or the information can be communicated in an email.

It is important that LOIs are submitted, so we can plan for spring program approvals.

Teacher Performance Assessments

The ADE-sponsored pilot for edTPA is continuing with Williams Baptist College, Henderson State University, and the Arkansas Professional Pathway to Educator Licensure (APPEL). UA Fort Smith is in its second year of an independent pilot and has joined in the discussion. We would like to thank these programs for their participation.

ETS is currently recruiting for a spring 2015 pilot of the Praxis Performance Assessment for Teachers (PPAT). There is still no charge for the PPAT pilot. If interested please contact Kathy Pruner at kpruner@ets.org.