

## **ALABAMA PROSPECTIVE TEACHER TESTING PROGRAM**

Individuals who apply to the Alabama Department of Education, Teacher Education and Certification Office, for Alabama professional educator certificates or for alternative and preliminary certificates under any of the conditions described in "Test Candidates" below must meet the requirements of the Alabama Prospective Teacher Testing Program (APTTP) as a precondition for certification. The APTTP consists of basic skills assessments and subject assessments. The basic skills assessments consist of the Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information, and Writing assessments from the ACT WorkKeys System. The subject assessments consist of selected tests from the Praxis II: Subject Assessments that are administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS).

### **TEST CANDIDATES**

The APTTP applies to individuals who are seeking initial certification which is defined as the first issuance of a certificate in a teaching field or instructional support area in which the individual has not previously held an Alabama Professional Educator Certificate. Requirements for the basic skills assessments are effective for individuals submitting applications on or after January 1, 2003. Requirements for the subject assessments are effective for applicants on or after April 14, 2005. Individuals who apply to the Alabama Department of Education under any of the conditions described below must meet the requirements of the APTTP:

1. Applying for an initial Professional Educator Certificate in a teaching field or instructional support area. Exemptions are noted below:
  - a. Applicants for certification based upon the completion of an Alabama state-approved baccalaureate-degree-level or Alternative Fifth-Year teacher education program prior to January 1, 2003, are not required to pass the basic skills assessments provided a completed application for certification is submitted to the Teacher Education and Certification Office and requirements are met for the issuance of the appropriate certificate prior to July 1, 2006.
  - b. Applicants for certification based upon the completion of an Alabama state-approved baccalaureate-degree-level teacher education program on or after January 1, 2003, and who passed the Alabama Basic Skills Test required for admission to the program between June 1992 and January 2002, are not required to pass the basic skills assessments.
  - c. Applicants for certification based upon completion of an Alabama state-approved Alternative Fifth-Year teacher education program on or after January 1, 2003, and who passed the Alabama Basic Skills Test required for admission to the program between June 1992 and July 1997, are not required to pass the basic skills assessments.
  - d. Applicants for certification based upon the completion of an Alabama state-approved teacher education program prior to April 14, 2005, are not required to pass the subject assessments provided a completed application for certification is submitted to the Teacher Education and Certification Office and requirements are met for the issuance of the appropriate certificate prior to July 1, 2006.
2. Applying for an Alternative Baccalaureate-Level Certificate, a Special Alternative Certificate, or a Preliminary Certificate.
3. Applying to Reinstate a Lapsed (more than six months) Professional Educator Certificate.

Please note that individuals who currently hold valid Alabama Professional Educator Certificates are not required to pass the basic skills assessments of the APTTP. Individuals who currently hold or have held Alabama Professional Educator Certificates and who are advancing to a higher degree level of certification in the same field are not required to pass the APTTP assessments.

Additional information about the assessments, including the minimum passing score requirements, is provided below and in the FAQs on this site.

## **BASIC SKILLS ASSESSMENTS**

Applicants on or after January 1, 2003, must meet the APTTP requirements for the Applied Mathematics, Reading for Information and Writing assessments from the ACT WorkKeys System. The State Board of Education adopted the Applied Mathematics assessment and the Reading for Information assessment on October 10, 2002, and the Writing assessment on May 8, 2003, for use as a precondition for initial certification. The requirements for the Applied Mathematics assessment and the Reading for Information assessment are effective for applicants on or after January 1, 2003. The requirements for the Writing assessment are effective for applicants on or after September 1, 2003. The assessments measure an examinee's foundational skills that are necessary for effectively performing the critical tasks required of prospective teachers.

Test candidates must currently attain passing scores on the Applied Mathematics assessment, the Reading for Information assessment, and the Writing assessment. The minimum passing scores set by the State Board of Education are Level 4 for the Applied Mathematics assessment, Level 4 for the Reading for Information assessment, and Level 3 for the Writing assessment. An individual who attempts an assessment but does not attain the minimum passing score may satisfy that test requirement through the successful combination of the individual's test performance and grade point average (GPA) on certain courses in the undergraduate core curriculum. An individual who does not attain a passing score through this option may attend and pass a remediation course designed by the Alabama Department of Education to satisfy the test requirement. The formula and the remediation-course procedures are implemented by the Alabama Department of Education and are applicable after the individual has completed all other requirements for a Professional Educator Certificate and has submitted an application to the Teacher Education and Certification Office. Review the FAQ at [Teacher Education & Certification FAQs](#) for additional information concerning these options.

## **SUBJECT ASSESSMENTS**

Applicants on or after April 14, 2005, must meet the APTTP requirements for the Praxis II: Subject Assessments administered by Educational Testing Service. The State Board of Education adopted the Praxis II subject assessments on April 14, 2005, for use as a precondition for initial certification. The Praxis II subject assessments that are required for certification are shown at [APTTP Test Alignment Chart February 2006 Revision.doc](#). The assessments measure subject-specific teaching skills and knowledge.

Between April 14, 2005, and April 13, 2006, a "no-fault" period is in effect during which time no candidate for initial certification will be denied a teaching certificate based upon his or her score on the Praxis II subject assessment(s). During the "no-fault" period, test candidates who are otherwise eligible for certification must submit proof of having taken the appropriate Praxis II assessment. Thereafter, minimum scores set by the State Board of Education are required. Test candidates on or after April 14, 2006, must meet the minimum passing scores established by the State Board of Education for the Praxis II subject assessments, regardless of whether or not the test was taken during the "no-fault" period.

The State Board of Education adopted minimum passing scores for the Praxis II assessments on February 9, 2006, effective immediately for individuals who apply for certification on or after April 14, 2006. Individuals who complete approved teacher education programs at Alabama colleges and universities prior to April 14, 2006, will be allowed until December 31, 2006, to apply and meet requirements for the appropriate certificate under the "no-fault" provisions. Review the chart at [APTTP Test Alignment Chart February 2006 Revision.doc](#) to view the passing score requirements. Note that minimum passing score requirements for thirteen of the required Praxis II assessments are designated as "TBA" (to be announced). The score requirements are anticipated to be announced this spring and will be effective for individuals applying for certification this fall. Specific effective dates will be announced when the final score requirements are set this spring. Meanwhile, applicants for certification in these thirteen fields must continue to submit proof of having taken the appropriate Praxis II assessment.

**ADDITIONAL INFORMATION ABOUT THE ASSESSMENTS, INCLUDING HOW TO REGISTER AND HOW TO OBTAIN STUDY GUIDES, MAY BE FOUND IN THE [FAQS](#) AND AT [WWW.ACT.ORG/ALABAMAPTTP](http://WWW.ACT.ORG/ALABAMAPTTP) FOR THE BASIC SKILLS ASSESSMENTS OR [WWW.ETS.ORG/PRAxis](http://WWW.ETS.ORG/PRAxis) FOR THE PRAXIS II ASSESSMENTS.**