

Licensing Exam Requirements for Student Teaching

Query – 03.12.2010

Query:

In Massachusetts, most of our teacher preparation programs in public higher education require candidates to pass our state's teacher licensing examinations before they student teach. Some of our private IHEs do also.

This is controversial and I am just curious how many other states require something like this, too.

- 1) In your state, do some Institutes of Higher Education require passing scores on some of your teacher tests (like Praxis) before teacher candidates student teach?**
- 2) If so, is the requirement just for the literacy test (like Praxis I) or does it include subject knowledge teacher tests specific to the initial license, also?**
- 3) If so, is this requirement used in all your state's IHEs, public and private?**
- 4) If only some IHEs require it, can you give an estimate for the proportion of candidates in your state that are subject to this requirement?**

From: Massachusetts

Responses:

Utah	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In Utah, students who are named by their teacher preparation programs for licensure have three years to pass the T&L Praxis and the subject-specific Praxis. 2) See above 3) Yes 4) All
Wisconsin	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Wisconsin Department Instruction, governed by legislative rule, requires all teacher preparation program completers to pass PRAXIS II before awarding licensure (i.e. all content tests related to license area). 2) See above 3) Yes 4) All – all programs make students pass PRAXIS II prior to student teaching. In fact, students are not counted as completing teacher preparation until they pass. One of the many issues we have about this assessment is the low pass rate for minority candidates.
Pennsylvania	PA has the same policy as Wisconsin.
Mississippi	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) In Mississippi, the option of passing Praxis I and Praxis II prior to student teaching is optional. All but one or two of our 15 Colleges of Education (public and private total) do require the passing of both tests prior to the internship. 2) In Mississippi, both Praxis I and Praxis II in the content area must be passed before an initial license is given to the beginning teacher. 3) In Mississippi, passing of both Praxis I and Praxis II in the content area is a state requirement. 4) In Mississippi, passing of both Praxis I and Praxis II in the content area is a requirement for all candidates.
Colorado	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1) Yes. 2) For those IHEs that require passing the teacher test (Praxis II or PLACE, depending on content area/level) prior to student teaching, it includes subject knowledge teacher tests specific to the initial license too.

	<p>3) No.</p> <p>4) Most IHEs require it so I'm guessing almost 95% of candidates are subject to this requirement.</p>
Delaware	In Delaware we have four institutions of higher education, two public and two private, that have teacher preparation programs. All four institutions request successful passing of Praxis I and Praxis II prior to candidates student teaching.
Oklahoma	I do not think there is a set requirement in Oklahoma. However, most colleges of education use the Oklahoma General Education Test for admittance to Teacher Education, and most have the candidates take the appropriate content test (called the Oklahoma Subject Area Tests) before they student teach, and then the Oklahoma Professional Teacher Examination before they graduate. However, to my knowledge, there is nothing that says this has to happen this way. If you need specific information from each of the 22 universities in the state with colleges of education, I could try to poll the deans.
West Virginia	<p>1) Institutions require the PRAXIS I to enter into a teacher education program. Of course, this would precede student teaching.</p> <p>2) Subject knowledge tests are not required statewide for student teaching; however a few institutions require successful passage of PRAXIS II. It is an institutional decision. Most do not require PRAXIS II in order to student teach.</p> <p>3) Not required</p> <p>4) My best guess is that it would not exceed 10%.</p>
Puerto Rico	<p>1) Just a few, representing about 9% of all IHEs offering teacher preparation programs, require passing scores <u>as a graduation requirement</u>.</p> <p>2) Requirement is for both Praxis and subject knowledge.</p> <p>3) Currently only in private IHEs.</p> <p>4) Don't have that number.</p>
New Mexico	<p>1) Yes in New Mexico</p> <p>2) For many in New Mexico it is more than the "basic skills" tests on our New Mexico Teacher Assessment (NMTA)</p> <p>3) To get a teaching license all most pass all part of the NMTA</p> <p>4) >90%</p>