



2020 – 2021 TESTING GUIDE

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INTRODUCTION

An important part of the CMS Teaching Residency application and enrollment process is taking and passing required tests for state teacher licensure. North Carolina requires the Praxis II test(s) or Pearson tests depending on licensure area for all of its teachers to show basic skills and subject-area competency.

At this time, we are waiting on updated guidelines from the state regarding testing. We understand that testing centers are closed due to COVID-19, and you may not be able to schedule a test date before training begins. Therefore, all enrolled candidates will be able to start training even if you have not passed your required test. **NOTE: This does not mean you are eligible for hire - only enrollees who have received communication that they are eligible for hire are able to apply for teaching positions at this time.** We will continue to update you with any additional guidance received from the state. We know that there are many uncertainties, and we will continue to be flexible as we approach summer training.

Since there are limited testing opportunities, it is imperative that you register for the required tests and take them as soon as possible once test centers re-open. While we have high expectations that you will study and pass the tests on your first attempt, the tests can be difficult and you must pass the required tests to continue with the program and start summer training. We highly encourage that all participants take the required tests as early as possible to ensure timely receipt of score reports and allow for retaking tests if necessary so that you can become eligible for hire as soon as possible.

WHAT ARE REQUIREMENTS FOR MY CONTENT AREA?

In order to be eligible for hire and your residency license, you must either pass the required tests listed below, or meet the coursework requirements:

Licensure Area	Requirements
Elementary	Pearson Foundations of Reading test OR a degree in one of the following: Early Childhood Education Child Development Elementary Education Birth – Kindergarten English/Language Arts Family Studies Mathematics Psychology Reading Sciences Social Studies Sociology
Middle Grades Math	Praxis Middle School Mathematics OR Math degree or at least 24 coursework hours
Middle Grades Science	Praxis Middle School Science

	<p>OR a degree or at least 24 coursework hours in one of the following:</p> <p>Biology Chemistry Physics Earth Science Geology Physical Science Astronomy Science Botany Genetics</p>
Middle Grades English/Language Arts	<p>Praxis Middle School English Language Arts</p> <p>OR</p> <p>English/Language Arts degree or at least 24 coursework hours</p>
High School Math	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis Mathematics Content Knowledge Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching, Grades 7-12 <p>OR</p> <p>Math degree or at least 24 coursework hours</p>
High School Science	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis General Science Content Knowledge Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching, Grades 7-12 <p>OR a degree or at least 24 coursework hours in one of the following:</p> <p>Biology Chemistry Physics Earth Science Geology Physical Science Astronomy Science Botany Genetics</p>
High School English/Language Arts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Praxis English Language Arts Content Knowledge Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching, Grades 7-12 <p>OR</p> <p>English/Language Arts degree or at least 24 coursework hours</p>

In order to be recommended for your initial professional license, you must pass all required tests, even if you initially were eligible for your residency licensed based on your degree or coursework. You have three years to convert your residency license to the initial professional license.

Elementary only: In addition to the Pearson Foundations of Reading test, you must also pass one of the required math tests (see below) in order to be recommended for your initial professional license.

TEST REGISTRATION

All candidates should visit the appropriate website (see info below) to register for their test(s) within the available testing windows. When you register for the Praxis test(s), please make sure that you list the **NCDPI (7846)** as test-score recipients. (Enrollees taking the Praxis Tests outside of North Carolina, please ensure that you have selected the state department of education, which is an available option for which you have to search.)

REQUIRED PASSING SCORES

You have been assigned a subject area based on your eligibility and preference, as well as the needs of the district. Please refer to your assigned subject area to determine which content-area test(s) to take.

ALL HIGH SCHOOL CANDIDATES: If you qualify for licensure through coursework, you DO NOT need to take the Praxis II: Principals of Learning and Teaching (5624) test. Your successful completion and passing of the edTPA portfolio will serve as your pedagogy testing requirement.

ASSIGNED SUBJECT AREA	LICENSURE AREA AND GRADE LEVEL	REQUIRED PRAXIS II TEST(S)	MINIMUM PASSING SCORE
Mathematics - High School	Mathematics (9-12)	Praxis II: Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161)	160
		Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5624) *NOT NEEDED if you qualify through coursework due to required passing of edTPA	157
Mathematics - Middle School	Middle Grades Mathematics (6-9)	Praxis II: Middle School Mathematics (5169)	165
Science - High School	General Science (9-12)	Praxis II: General Science: Content Knowledge (5435)	151
		Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5624) *NOT NEEDED if you qualify through coursework due to required passing of edTPA	157
Science – Middle School	Middle Grades Science (6-9)	Praxis II: Middle School Science (5440)	150
English – High School	English (9-12)	Praxis II: English (5038)	167
		Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5624)	157

		*NOT NEEDED if you qualify through coursework due to required passing of edTPA	
English Language Arts – Middle School	Middle Grades English Language Arts (6-9)	Praxis II: Middle School English Language Arts (5047)	164
Elementary Education	Elementary Education Grades K – 6	Pearson: Foundations of Reading (SA090)	229
		CHOOSE ONE OF THE FOLLOWING: Pearson: General Curriculum Math Subtest (203)	227
		OR Praxis Elementary CKT Math Subtest (7813)	150

TESTING TIMELINE

Currently, most test centers are not scheduling seats for testing due to COVID-19. If you previously registered for a test date that was canceled, please check the testing website for updates on rescheduling and next steps. We will provide updates on specific timeline for testing as we hear additional information from the state. In the meantime, we encourage you to continue studying for your required tests so that you are well prepared, even if you do not have a test date.

HELPFUL LINKS: PRAXIS II

TEST INFORMATION	CORRESPONDING WEBSITE LINK
Registering for a Computer-Delivered Test	http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/computer/
Testing Fees	http://www.ets.org/praxis/about/fees
North Carolina Test Centers and Dates	http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/lists/praxis tc_domestic NC.html
General Test Centers and Dates	http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/centers_dates/
Change or Cancel Registration	http://www.ets.org/praxis/register/changes/
North Carolina Testing Overview	http://www.ets.org/praxis/nc
North Carolina Test Requirements (including passing scores)	http://www.ets.org/praxis/nc/requirements/
Praxis FAQs	http://www.ets.org/praxis/faq_test_takers/

HELPFUL LINKS: PEARSON TESTS

TEST INFORMATION	CORRESPONDING WEBSITE LINK
Registering for a Computer-Delivered Test	https://www.nc.nesinc.com/App/SignInForm.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fApp%2fRegister%2fIdentityConfirmation.aspx
Testing Fees	http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Tests.html
General Test Centers and Dates	http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_TestDatesAndSites.html
Testing, Registration, and Score Reporting Policies	http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Policies.html

TEST PREPARATION

Your required tests can be challenging and may require multiple attempts before passing. This is why we require that you plan to register for your first attempt at the test within two weeks of enrolling. Teachers and participants – even those with deep content knowledge or professional experience – report the need to study and prepare well before the tests. We encourage you to follow the strategies below in order to prepare as best as possible for your test(s).

STEP 1: UTILIZE YOUR TEST PREP COURSE

You will be enrolled in a test preparation course as you prepare for your test. This course will be self-paced and includes the following resources:

- A diagnostic test to give you an idea of what you already know based on content from the test
- A set of recorded test prep study sessions and accompanying resources. Each set of recorded sessions is based on a scope and sequence of the areas of each test.
- Additional resources that are available for prep, including the Praxis or Pearson guides for each test.

STEP 2: CREATE A STUDY PLAN

We have found that a shared mistake of candidates who do not pass the test is that they did not allow themselves enough time to adequately prepare for the test, not that they struggled greatly with the subject area. You will have a tutor to support with instruction along the way, but it is still your responsibility to continue studying on your own. Creating a detailed study plan using the tips below will help you stay on track to monitor your progress toward passing.

STUDY PLAN GOAL	ACTION STEPS AND RESOURCES
1. Know your development areas	Make sure you pay attention to the questions you miss on the diagnostic exam. This will tell you which section of the test you need to focus on the most. The test prep tutors will also tailor sessions to meet the needs of candidates attending.

2. Know what test(s) you need to take.	Review your offer letter, this Testing Guide, and the ETS Website (www.ets.org) or Pearson website (http://www.nc.nesinc.com/) to determine which test(s) you are required to take and by what date.
3. Register for your required tests as early as possible.	Register for your tests as early as possible and determine retesting opportunities within future testing windows in the event that you do not pass on the first attempt.
4. Understand what information is covered on your test.	Go to the ETS Praxis preparation page (http://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials) Select a Praxis test to see available test preparation materials, including Study Companions, Study Guides, Practice Tests and more. Elementary: Go to the Pearson preparation page (http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Prepare.html) Choose from sample test problems, online tutorials, and more.
5. Create and execute a detailed study plan that includes content and general test preparation.	Using the sample plan available on the ETS website (http://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/study), make a personal study plan for yourself. We find it useful to build in at least two full-length, timed practice tests into your plan and then adjust your studying according to the results of these tests.

STEP 3: GATHER STUDY RESOURCES*

- **ETS Study Plan Webinar:** ETS offers a free webinar reviewing how to prepare for Praxis tests.
- **ETS Test at a Glance Documents:** ETS publishes free Test at a Glance documents for each Praxis test. Review these documents to help create your study guide and practice sample questions.
- **Pearson Preparation Materials:** Pearson offers free study guides, practice tests, and video tutorials to help you prepare for the Pearson tests.
- **Learning Express:** Many public libraries subscribe to this online test-prep service. Simply visit your public library website, click on Learning Express, and then search for “Praxis.”
- **Study Books:** Companies like Barron’s and Cliffs Notes publish study guides for most Praxis tests. ETS even carries an eBook study guide available for download on their website. Many of these books contain full-length practice tests and online resources. If you wish to avoid paying for these guides, visit the public library, where you can check out study materials for free, or amazon.com, where you can obtain used copies of these texts at reduced costs.
- **Online Resources:** There are various websites and internet resources to help you prepare for your test and review content in an interactive format, some of the most complete resources include: www.Quizlet.com, and www.StudyStack.com.
- **College Resources:** The textbooks that you used for your college coursework can help you prepare for Praxis tests, especially for secondary subjects such as math and science.
- **SAT, ACT, and AP Test Study Materials:** Many of the topics covered in the Middle School and Secondary Content Knowledge tests are also covered on college entrance tests like the SAT and ACT. Consider going back to these guides for refreshers on basic algebra and geometry. AP tests in specific content areas, like chemistry, are also helpful in reviewing for specific secondary Praxis tests.

**Although the CMS Teaching Residency program does not specifically endorse any of these materials and while individuals' preparation needs will vary, participants have cited these resources as helpful starting points in studying for these important tests.*

STEP 4: CONNECT WITH YOUR COHORT

Many participants find it helpful to connect with other members of their cohort via the CMS Teaching Residency Closed Facebook Group. There you can seek advice and share best practices. Although it is not mandatory, we strongly encourage you to participate in the Facebook Group as a supporting resource for your time in the Residency.

STEP 5: GET READY FOR TEST DAY

- **Verify your test location.** Test locations sometimes change. Be sure to confirm your location before test day by logging in to your *My Praxis* account on the ETS website or by logging into your Pearson account. Drive to the location prior to the test to map out your driving directions and figure out the best place to park.
- **Assemble your identification (ID) documents.** See ID requirements (http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/id and http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Policies.html) to be sure your documents will be accepted. You will not be admitted to the test without the correct documents.
- **Review the list of important items** to bring to your test center to ensure you are prepared and have everything you need on the day of the test (http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/bring/ and http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Prepare.html).
- **Review calculator requirements.** If your test allows a calculator, make sure you have reviewed the specific requirements (http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/policies/calculators) and which types of calculators are allowed or not.
- **Dress appropriately.** Testing-room conditions vary. Dress in layers to ensure you are ready for any room temperature.
- **Review the Test Center Procedures and Regulations** (http://www.ets.org/praxis/test_day/procedures_and http://www.nc.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=GEN_Policies.html).
- **Expect the unexpected.** Most participants report unexpected events on test day. For example, having to wait upward of an hour for the test to actually start (bring a snack to keep your energy up!) or having the testing rooms change multiple times. Don't let these last minute changes throw you. Expect them and be prepared.

TOP 20 TEST-TAKING TIPS

1. Carefully follow all the test registration procedures.
2. Know the test directions, duration, topics, question types, and number of questions.
3. Set up a flexible study schedule at least three to four weeks before test day.
4. Study during the time of day you are most alert, relaxed, and stress free.
5. Maximize your learning style: visual learners use visual study aids; auditory learners use auditory study aids.
6. Focus on your weakest knowledge base.
7. Find a study partner to review with and help clarify questions.

8. Practice, practice, practice.
9. Get a good night's sleep; don't try to cram the night before the test.
10. Eat a well-balanced meal before the test.
11. Know the exact physical location of the testing site; drive the route to the site prior to test day.
12. Bring a set of earplugs - the testing center could be noisy.
13. Wear comfortable, loose-fitting, layered clothing to the testing center; prepare for it to be either cold or hot during the test.
14. Bring at least two current forms of ID to the testing center.
15. Arrive to the test early, but be prepared to wait and be patient.
16. If you are unsure of an answer, eliminate the obviously wrong answer choices, then guess the first remaining choice.
17. Pace yourself: don't rush but keep working and move on quickly if you get stuck.
18. Maintain a positive attitude even if the test is going poorly.
19. Keep your first answer unless you are positive it is wrong.
20. Check your work carefully for avoidable mistakes.

YOU WERE SELECTED FOR CMS TEACHING RESIDENCY BECAUSE YOU IMPRESSED US WITH YOUR SKILLS AND EXPERIENCE. WE ARE CONFIDENT THAT WITH PROPER ADVANCED PREPARATION AND SUPPORT, YOU WILL PASS YOUR TESTS AND BE READY TO START TRAINING THIS SUMMER. IF YOU HAVE QUESTIONS RELATED TO THE TESTS, REACH OUT DIRECTLY TO THE CMS TEACHING RESIDENCY STAFF.

GOOD LUCK!