

East Stroudsburg University Teacher Certification Testing Requirements

Pennsylvania considers the education of its youth to be among the highest priorities of state government. As such, individuals seeking teacher certification in the Commonwealth must: **1) Pass a state-appointed basic skills assessment in reading, writing, and mathematics in order to screen into a teacher certification program (before 60 credits), 2) Complete a state-approved teacher preparation program, and 3) Pass state-appointed certification assessments near or upon completion of the teacher preparation program (certification specific).**

1. Pass state-appointed basic skills assessment in reading, writing, and mathematics:

All teacher candidates in Pennsylvania are required to officially screen into their certification programs by the time they attain 60 credits. While screening requirements vary slightly from program to program at ESU, all candidates are required to pass state-appointed basic skills assessments as part of the screening protocol. The Commonwealth allows candidates to illustrate basic skills competence through the reading, mathematics, and writing assessments included in the ACT, SAT, CORE Academic Assessment (recommended by ESU), and the PAPA Assessment.

Passing scores for each assessment can be found by clicking on the link below and following **“#2 Certification Test and Score Requirements.”** Once on this page, click **“#1 Basic Skills Tests.”**

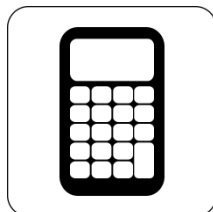


[Basic Skills Test Link](#)

Candidates pursuing testing accommodations must do so by contacting the assessment company directly; ESU does not have the authority to grant accommodations for basic skills assessments.

Pennsylvania also allows candidates to combine scores from the different basic skills assessments listed above. Since multiple options exist (with minimum combined scores for each), the Commonwealth has developed a Basic Skills Calculator to calculate passing scores when combining results from different assessments.

This calculator can be accessed by clicking on the link below and following **“#3 Composite Score Calculator.”**



[Composite Score Calculator](#)

Having difficulty passing the ETS Core?

East Stroudsburg University's College of Education has developed a **Multi-tiered System of Support** to help candidates prepare for their basic skills assessments. Any candidate who is having difficulty passing their basic skills assessment should meet with their advisor immediately. Information related to ESU's Multi-tiered System of Support for the basic skills assessment can be accessed by clicking on the **HELP** link below:



2. **Complete a state-approved teacher preparation program:**

East Stroudsburg University's teacher preparation programs are state-approved and accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). CAEP is widely considered the "Gold Standard" for teacher preparation programs and represents the expertise of our faculty.

3. **Pass program-specific certification assessments:**

As noted above, the Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) requires all teacher candidates to pass state-appointed certification assessments. These assessments are certification-specific and should be taken during the student's final year of preparation.

Passing scores are based on a sliding scale using a candidate's final overall GPA. No candidate will be certified by PDE with a GPA less than 2.8; ESU encourages candidates to attain a minimum 3.0 GPA before graduating. **It is also important to note that from time to time, PDE will change certification assessments. As such, before registering, candidates should consult with their advisor or the Dean's office to ensure that they are selecting the appropriate certification assessments.**

Specific information related to certification assessments including Instructional Certification Areas, Content Tests, and Qualifying Scores by GPA can be found at the following link (once you've clicked on the link, click **Certification Test and Score Requirements** and then **Instructional Certification Areas**):



Certification Testing Requirements