

*Virginia Department of Education  
Division of Teacher Education and Licensure  
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## Entry Assessments to Virginia Approved Programs

This document provides information regarding the Board of Education prescribed assessments for entry into a Virginia approved program. Please refer to the following Web site for information on the assessments required for licensure:

[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof\\_teacher\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf)

### Authority

*Code of Virginia*, § [23-9.2:3.6](#). **Education preparation programs offered by institutions of higher education.**

- A. Education preparation programs shall be required to meet the requirements for accreditation and program approval as prescribed by the Board of Education in its regulations.
- B. As provided in § [22.1-298.2](#), the Board of Education shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education programs in its regulations.
- C. Candidates who fail to achieve the minimum score established by the Board of Education may be denied entrance into the relevant education program on the basis of such failure; however, if enrolled in the program, they shall have the opportunity to address any deficiencies.

## Entry Assessments to Virginia Approved Programs

### **PRAXIS I PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TESTS (EFFECTIVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2013)\***

<b><u>PRAXIS I PRE-PROFESSIONAL SKILLS TESTS</u></b>					
<b><u>(EFFECTIVE UNTIL DECEMBER 31, 2013)* (Refer to asterisk on the next page.)</u></b>					
<b>Pre-Professional Skills Tests (Paper/pencil PPST)</b>			<b>Pre-Professional Skills Tests (Computerized-PPST)</b>		
<b><u>PRAXIS I</u></b> (Paper/pencil)	<b><u>TEST</u></b> <b><u>CODE</u></b>	<b><u>PASSING</u></b> <b><u>SCORES</u></b>	<b><u>PRAXIS I</u></b> C-PPST	<b><u>TEST</u></b> <b><u>CODE</u></b>	<b><u>PASSING</u></b> <b><u>SCORES</u></b>
Mathematics	10730	178	Mathematics	5730	178
Reading	10710	178	Reading	5710	178
Writing	20720	<u>176</u>	Writing	5720	<u>176</u>
PPST Composite Score		532	C-PPST Composite Score		532

**\* Effective January 1, 2014, the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) will replace the Praxis I Pre-professional Skills Tests for reading, writing, and mathematics as the assessments for entry into a Virginia approved teacher education program. (Refer to page 3.) Individuals who took the Praxis I assessments prior to December 31, 2013, are deemed to have taken the prescribed assessment referenced in Section 22.1-298.2 of the Code of Virginia.** As provided in the *Code*, the Board of Education shall prescribe an assessment of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and shall establish a minimum passing score for such assessment. The Board also may prescribe other requirements for admission to Virginia's approved education programs in its regulations. Candidates who fail to achieve the minimum score established by the Board of Education may be denied entrance into the relevant education program on the basis of such failure; however, if enrolled in the program, they shall have the opportunity to address any deficiencies.

### **SUBSTITUTE TESTS FOR PRAXIS I**

#### **SAT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST**

On March 24, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the SAT® as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics). The Board approved the following scores:

**SAT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995** -- a score of **1000** with at least **450** on the verbal and **510** on the mathematics tests;

**SAT Taken After April 1, 1995** -- a score of **1100** with at least **530** on the verbal and **530** on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I.

#### **ACT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST**

On September 22, 2004, the Board of Education approved the use of the ACT as a substitute test for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics). The Board approved the following scores:

**ACT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995** -- a composite score of 21, with the ACT mathematics score no less than 21, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 37. [Please note that you must have taken and met passing scores for the ACT **Mathematics** and **English Plus Reading** tests. At one time, the English Plus Reading test was not offered.]

**ACT Taken After April 1, 1995** -- a composite score of 24, with the ACT mathematics score no less than 22, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 46.

#### **VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (VCLA) AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST (READING AND WRITING ONLY)**

On March 18, 2010, the Board approved a recommendation of the Advisory Board on Teacher Education and Licensure to allow the use of the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (Reading and Writing) as a substitute test for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests for individuals seeking entry into a teacher preparation program. This action of the Board does not impact the licensure assessments required for individuals seeking a teaching license. The Board of Education allows the use of a composite score of the Praxis Reading, Writing, and Mathematics tests to meet the Praxis I assessment requirement and the use of the SAT® and ACT® as substitute tests for Praxis I (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) for individuals seeking admission into a teacher preparation program. An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as an optional assessment for the Praxis I Reading and Writing tests will be required to meet

the Praxis I Mathematics assessment requirement (or equivalent SAT® or ACT® test scores). The cut scores for the VCLA prescribed by the Board of Education are as follows:

Writing Sub Test: 235  
 Reading Sub Test: 235  
**Composite Score: 470**

**PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS TESTS:  
 READING (5712); WRITING (5722); AND MATHEMATICS (5732)  
(EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014)**

**PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS TESTS:  
 READING (5712); WRITING (5722); AND MATHEMATICS (5732)  
 (EFFECTIVE JANUARY 1, 2014)**

On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education prescribed the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) as the assessments of basic skills for individuals seeking entry into an approved education program and adopted the passing scores for the assessments to become effective January 1, 2014. These tests, administered by the Educational Testing Service, will replace the Praxis I Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST) in Reading, Writing, and Mathematics. Information on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests, adopted passing scores, effective date, and recommendations approved by the Board related to implementation of the assessments are provided as follows:

**PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS TESTS: READING (5712); WRITING (5722); AND MATHEMATICS (5732)**

The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) **require a passing score for each of the three subtests. There is not a composite passing score for the assessments.** If a passing score is not obtained on each subtest, a subtest may be retaken as a standalone test.

On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved the passing scaled scores provided in the following table:

Test	Board Approved Passing Score	Effective Date
	Scaled Score	
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading (5712)	156	January 1, 2014
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing (5722)	162	January 1, 2014
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics (5732)	150	January 1, 2014

**The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) require a passing score for each of the three subtests. There is not a composite passing score for the assessments.**

**SUBSTITUTE TESTS FOR THE PRAXIS CORE ACADEMIC SKILLS FOR EDUCATORS  
TESTS: READING (5712); WRITING (5722); AND MATHEMATICS (5732)**

On June 27, 2013, the Board of Education approved currently approved SAT and ACT substitute tests and passing scores as substitute tests for the basic skills entry assessment to be accepted until comparison studies using the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712); Writing (5722); and Mathematics (5732) can be completed.

**SAT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST**

The Board of Education approved the use of the SAT® as a substitute test for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) and the following scores until comparison studies can be completed.

**SAT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995** -- a score of **1000** with at least **450** on the verbal and **510** on the mathematics tests;

**SAT Taken After April 1, 1995** -- a score of **1100** with at least **530** on the verbal and **530** on the mathematics tests as a substitute for Praxis I.

**ACT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST**

The Board of Education approved the use of the ACT as a substitute test for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) and the following scores until comparison studies can be completed.

**ACT Taken Prior to April 1, 1995** -- a composite score of 21, with the ACT mathematics score no less than 21, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 37. [Please note that you must have taken and met passing scores for the ACT **Mathematics** and **English Plus Reading** tests. At one time, the English Plus Reading test was not offered.]

**ACT Taken After April 1, 1995** – a composite score of 24, with the ACT mathematics score no less than 22, and an ACT English Plus Reading score no less than 46.

**VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (VCLA) AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST (READING AND WRITING ONLY)**

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment has been required for initial licensure since 2006 and is composed of two area subtests – a Reading Subtest (091) and a Writing Subtest (092). The National Evaluation Group of Pearson administers this assessment. **On June 27, 2013, the Virginia Board of Education approved increased raw scores that are needed to obtain passing scores for the VCLA. The score scale has been adjusted to apply these new passing scores.** As a result, the scaled passing scores of 235 for both the reading and writing subtests will remain in effect. The scaled composite passing score for the VCLA assessment (reading and writing combined) is 470.

An individual choosing to use the VCLA (Reading and Writing) as a substitute assessment for the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Tests: Reading (5712) and Writing (5722) will be required to meet the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics test requirement (or equivalent SAT® or ACT® test scores). The cut scores for the VCLA prescribed by the Board of Education are as follows:

Writing Sub Test: 235  
Reading Sub Test: 235  
**Composite Score: 470**

Score reports for individuals who took the VCLA prior to January 1, 2014, will be accepted provided the candidate met the passing score effective at the time the test was taken.

## **ASSESSMENTS FOR LICENSURE**

**To review the assessments required for licensure in Virginia, please refer to the following Web site:**  
[http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof\\_teacher\\_assessment.pdf](http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf).