



Teaching Residency

TESTING GUIDE

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CMS Teaching Residency
cmsteachingresidency@cms.k12.nc.us

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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.

Since there are limited testing opportunities **prior to the start of training**, it is imperative that you register for the required tests and take them as soon as possible following an offer and enrollment. 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, before the start of summer training.

You must submit passing scores for your required tests in order to begin summer training, unless you were deemed eligible for licensure based on coursework. Once you receive your scores; you must submit the PDF score report to CMS Teaching Residency via email which is necessary to confirm your enrollment and secure your placement in the upcoming cohort. We encourage you to reach out to program staff with any questions specific to testing after you have enrolled.

If you **qualified for the program through coursework**, meaning you had at least 24 hours of relevant coursework for the area of licensure you are working towards, then you are able to start summer training without taking and passing the state required test. However, the state requires all residents to “attempt” their content area state test within their first year of residency. This means you must attempt the test and submit scores by June 1, 2022.

Please use this guide to help you determine what state test(s) you are required to take for your licensure area.

WHAT ARE THE REQUIREMENTS FOR MY CONTENT AREA?

In order to be eligible for hire and your residency license, you must either pass the required tests, or meet the coursework requirement.

In order to be recommended for your initial professional license, you must pass all required tests (see table below), even if you initially were eligible for your residency license based on your degree or coursework. You have three years to convert your residency license to the initial professional license. It is required from the state that you at least attempt to take your content test during your first year of residency but you will have 2 more years to pass the test. At any time you receive scores you must submit your score report as a PDF document to cmsteachingresidency@cms.k12.nc.us. Once you have completed all testing requirements, submitted your score reports to us, we will begin your paperwork to recommend you for your initial professional license.

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

ECCG only: In addition to the Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (5543) test, which you should attempt during your first year, you must also pass Pearson: Foundations of Reading (SA090) and Praxis: Elementary Education Math CKT 7813 during the 3 year window.

All High School candidates in the areas of math, science and English: You must attempt the content knowledge test in your area within the first year of residency but will have 2 more years to pass. A candidate will be exempt from **Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) test** if the candidate can produce evidence of a passing score on a nationally scored edTPA assessment (passing scores below).

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.)

Available testing windows are determined based on your subject area assignment and enrollment date. Please refer to the necessary website for computer-delivered testing windows:
https://www.ets.org/praxis/register/dates_locations/dates for all licensure areas except Elementary. Elementary will use <http://www.nc.nesinc.com/>. When registering for this test, you don't need to select North Carolina because the site you are registering on is NC.

Spots fill quickly so you should schedule your appointment as soon as possible. Most of the time you can find the date when your score report will be available which is also important to note depending on when you are taking your test. If you are taking your test near the end of the school year be sure you will receive your score report before June 1. Plan ahead so that you will make any deadline you may have. If you are unsure of your deadlines email cmsteachingresidency@cms.k12.nc.us.

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. As soon as you receive your passing scores, please send your score report in a PDF format to cmsteachingresidency@cms.k12.nc.us.

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

ALL LICENSURE AREAS MUST attempt their *test within their first year if they have not taken and passed prior to enrollment.

Assigned Subject Area	Licensure Area & Grade Level	Required State Test	Minimum Passing Score
Elementary Education	Elementary Education K- 6	*Pearson: Foundations of Reading (SA090) Praxis: Elementary Education Math CKT 7813	229 150
ECCG	EC: General Curriculum	*Praxis II: Special Ed: Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications (5543) Pearson: Foundations of Reading (SA090) Praxis: Elementary Education Math CKT 7813	158 229 150
ELA-Middle School	Middle Grades English Language Arts (6-9)	*Praxis II: Middle School English Language Arts (5047)	164
English-High School	English (9-12)	*Praxis II: English (5038) If you pass edTPA you do not need to take the test below Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5624)	167 157
Science – Middle School	Middle Grades Science (6-9)	*Praxis Middle School Science (5442) this is the newest version of the MS science state test as of August 2021	152

		OR Note: You can take the Praxis II: Middle Grades Science (5440) until Sept. 1-August 2024	150
Science- High School	General Science (9-12)	*Praxis II: General Science: Content Knowledge (5435) If you pass edTPA you do not need to take the test below Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5624)	151 157
Math- Middle School	Middle Grades Mathematics (6-9)	*Praxis 5164 will be the new test to take instead of the above beginning Sept 2021 *Praxis II: Middle School Mathematics (5169) this test is available until August 2022.	157 165
Math-High School	Mathematics (9-12)	*Praxis II: Mathematics: Content Knowledge (5161) If you pass edTPA you do not need to take the test below Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5165) OR Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (5624) This test is available until August 2022.	160 159 157

What other state requirements are there around testing?

edTPA

What is it?

edTPA is a performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system used by teacher preparation programs throughout the United States to emphasize, measure and support the skills and knowledge that all teachers need from Day 1 in the classroom. For each handbook field, the placement is a Pre-Kindergarten to 12th grade classroom. edTPA is a subject-specific assessment that includes versions for 28 teaching fields. The assessment features a common architecture focused on three tasks: Planning, Instruction, and Assessment.

Aspiring teachers must prepare a portfolio of materials **during their student teaching clinical experience**. edTPA requires aspiring teachers to demonstrate readiness to teach through lesson plans designed to support their students' strengths and needs; engage real students in ambitious learning; analyze whether their students are learning and adjust their instruction to become more effective. Teacher candidates submit unedited video recordings of themselves at work in a real classroom as part of a portfolio that is scored by highly trained educators. edTPA builds on decades of teacher performance assessment

development and research regarding teaching skills and practices that improve student learning.

When do I work on this?

You must be hired and working as a full-time teacher of record and enrolled in an EPP, CMS Teaching Residency. The fee is \$300 which you will register and pay for at the date given by the program (usually around October). The program staff will communicate with you when to register and will walk you through registration and provide resources and other timelines to help support the work.

You can find more information at <http://www.edtpa.com>

How does CMSTR support me?

CMSTR will provide you with a “tutor” that will walk you through the tasks and details of the edTPA. The work will take place between December–April during cohort meetings as well as other scheduled sessions.

Every new teacher MUST submit their edTPA April 6th, 2022

edTPA Scores

Year	Passing Scores			Highly Qualified Scores		
	edTPA 13 rubrics	edTPA 15 rubrics	edTPA 18 rubrics	edTPA 13 rubrics	edTPA 15 rubrics	edTPA 18 rubrics
2019–2020	32	38	45	42	48	57
2020–2021	32	38	45	42	48	57
2021–2022	32	38	45	42	48	57

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

When you enrolled, you were invited to a test preparation course in Canvas for your content area. This includes the following resources:

- A diagnostic test to give you an idea of what you already know based on content from the test
- Recorded test prep study sessions and accompanying resources. (ECGC does not have any recorded sessions)
- 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 if 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.

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 start (bring a snack to keep your energy up!) or having the testing rooms change multiple times. Do not 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: do not 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.

Good luck!