

# Basic Competency Examination Requirement

The exams listed below meet the basic competency exam requirement for teacher certification in Alaska. You must have a passing score for reading, writing and mathematics. Scores from exams with a reading, a writing, and a math sections that have distinct qualifying scores **may be combined** to form a set of passing scores.

An original score report for a basic competency exam must be submitted with your application or be on file with the Teacher Certification Office. An original score report is the actual report issued by the testing organization; a photocopy will not be accepted. If an original score report is not available from the testing organization, a letter from a college, university or state agency that has previously received the original score report may be substituted. The letter must be written on letterhead and list the sub scores of the reading, writing and math portions of the exam.

If you do not have passing scores on one of the exams below, but you have a current and valid teaching certificate issued by another state (United States only), you may qualify for an Out-of-State Initial teaching certificate that can be valid for up to three years. The application for an Out-of-State Initial teaching certificate is located at [Applications for Teaching Certificates](#).

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## Praxis

### Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Core)

Subject	Core
Reading (5712)	156
Writing (5722)	162
Math (5732)	150

### PRAXIS I Qualifying Test Scores

Subject	PPST	CBT
Reading	175	322
Writing	174	321
Math	173	318
PPST = PreProfessional Skills Test		
CBT = Computer-Based Test		

An average score of 174 with no score less than 172 on each of the reading, writing and math sections of

the Praxis I. PPST is also considered a passing score on a basic competency exam.

Applicants who have passed the Praxis I or the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators exams in reading, writing and mathematics may have official scores sent to the Teacher Certification Office directly from Education Testing Services (ETS), or may submit an original Examinee Score Report.

For further information regarding the Praxis CASE, please contact [Education Testing Services \(ETS\)](#) or (609) 771-7395.

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## CBEST

### Qualifying Test Scores

Total Score: 123 or higher (no individual score less than 37)
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Individual tests: 41 or higher (reading / writing / math)
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Passing scores for the CBEST exam must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an original Passing Status Verification Card or an original score report showing passing score(s) for individual test(s).

For further information regarding CBEST, please visit [California Educator Credentialing Examinations](#) website.

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## WEST-B

### Qualifying Test Scores

Subject	Scores
Reading	240
Writing	240
Math	240

Passing scores for the WEST-B exam must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an original *Examinee Score Report* showing passing scores. For further information regarding WEST-B, please visit [Washington Educator Skills Tests](#) website.

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# National Evaluation Series (NES) Essential Academic Skills

## Qualifying Test Scores

Subject	Scores
Reading	220
Writing	220
Math	220

Passing scores for the National Evaluation Series (NES) Essential Academic Skills exam must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an *original* examinee score report. More information about the NES Essential Academic Skills Test is available at [National Evaluation Series](#).

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## American College Test (ACT) and SAT (Previously Known as the Scholastic Assessment Test)

Applicants may substitute a passing score on one or more sections of the SAT or ACT for the equivalent passing scores on the WEST-B. The adopted passing scores for SAT and ACT are listed below.

### Cut Score Comparison Tables

Subject	WEST-B	SAT	ACT
Math	PASS	<b>515</b> (Prior to 3/2016) <b>530</b> (After 3/2016)	<b>22</b>
Reading	PASS	<b>500</b> (Prior to 3/2016) <b>27</b> (After 3/2016)	<b>22</b>
Writing	PASS	<b>490</b> (Prior to 3/2016) <b>28</b> (After 3/2016)	<b>8</b> (2/2005 to 8/2015) <b>23</b> (9/2015)

- The SAT writing test was added in 2005. This means no writing score will be accepted for SAT before 2005.
- SAT Score reports prior to October 2004 will have "verbal" scores which are the critical reading scores. If the score reports are from October 1996 to September 2004, then the verbal scores are the same as the reading scores beyond 2004. Use those scores to see if the candidate has

satisfied the requirement.

- SAT October 2004 and later score reports will have critical reading, mathematics and writing scores listed if the candidate took the tests.
- All other SAT Mathematics, Reading, and Writing scores that equal or exceed the cut scores in the table above meet the entrance criteria, regardless of when the test was taken.
- ACT Writing was added Feb. 2005 so no ACT writing score will be accepted before Feb. 2005.
- ACT Reading was added Oct. 1989. No ACT reading score will be accepted before Oct. 1989.
- ACT Writing subsection was updated and a new version was administered September 2015. (see score as of 9/2015)
- All other ACT Mathematics, Reading, and Writing scores that equal or exceed the cut scores in the table above meet the entrance criteria, regardless of when the test was taken.

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## Graduate Record Examination (GRE)

### Qualifying Test Scores

Subject	Scores
Reading (Verbal)	<b>450</b> (Before 8/1/2011) <b>153</b> (After 8/1/2011)
Mathematics (Quantitative)	<b>500</b> (Before 8/1/2011) <b>145</b> (After 8/1/2011)
Writing	<b>4.5</b>

Passing scores for the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) general test must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants who have passed the GRE reading, writing and mathematics may also have official scores sent to the Teacher Certification Office directly from Education Testing Services (ETS). If sending scores with the application, applicants must submit an original Examinee Score Report.

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## Alabama WorkKeys

### Qualifying Test Scores

Subject	Scores
Reading for Information	4
Writing	3
Applied Mathematics	4

Passing scores for the Alabama WorkKeys exam must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an original examinee score report showing passing scores. Call the Alabama Dept. of Education at (334) 242-9700 for testing information.

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## Florida Teacher Certification Exams- General Knowledge

Passing scores for each of the reading, English language skills, and math tests for the Florida Teacher Certification Exams must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification (the GK test is **not** the same as the CLAST). Applicants must submit an original examinee score report showing passing scores.

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## Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators

Passing scores for the reading, writing, and math tests for the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an original examinee score report showing passing scores.

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## Illinois Certification Testing System

### Qualifying Test Scores

Scaled Total Test Score	240 and Scores of
Reading	50 percent of questions correct
Writing	5 out 12
Math	35 percent of questions correct
Language Arts	50 percent of questions correct

Passing scores for the Illinois Certification Testing System test #96 Basic Skills or TAP 400 must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an *original examinee score report* showing passing scores on all four sections of the exam. The subtests on this exam **may not** be combined with other subtests on other exams to create a set of passing scores.

## Michigan Test for Teacher Certification

A scaled score of 220 is the passing score for each of the reading, writing, and math tests for the Michigan Test for Teacher Certification must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an *original* examinee score report showing passing scores.

## New Mexico Assessment of Teacher Basic Skills

### Qualifying Test Scores

Subject	Scores
Reading	240
Writing	240
Math	240

Passing scores for the New Mexico Assessment of Teacher Basic Skills exam must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an *original* examinee score report showing passing scores.

## New York State Teacher Certification Liberal Arts and Sciences Test

A qualifying score of 220 on the New York State Teacher Certification Liberal Arts and Sciences Test must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an *original* examinee score report. The subtests on this exam **may not** be combined with other subtests on other exams to create a set of passing scores.

## Oklahoma General Education Test

A total test score of 240 or more and additionally with passing scores on each of the general studies and liberal arts and sciences tests on the Oklahoma General Education Test must be submitted with the application for Initial teacher certification. Applicants must submit an *original* examinee score report. The subtests on this exam **may not** be combined with other subtests on other exams to create a set of passing scores.

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