PROFESSIONAL TEACHER'S ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRGINIA LICENSURE

NOTE: Assessment requirements are subject to change based on guidelines from the SDOE. Summarized from the Virginia Department of Education's *Entry Assessment to Virginia Approved Programs* (*http*://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/educator_preparation/college_programs/entry_assessment.pdf and *Assessment Requirements for Virginia Licensure* (http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/prof_teacher_assessment.pdf. July 24, 2012

ENTRY ASSESSMENT TO VIRGINIA APPROVED PROGRAMS

Authority

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.

ASSESSMENT / PRAXIS I

Praxis I is the prescribed Virginia Board of Education assessment for entry into a Virginia approved teacher preparation program. The Educational Testing Service administers the assessment, and information on the assessment can be accessed at the following Web site: www.ets.org. The scores approved by the Virginia Board of Education are as follows:

Pre-professional Skills Test (paper/pencil PPST)			**Pre-professional Skills Test (Computerized-PPST)***		
PRAXIS I (paper/pencil)	TEST CODE	PASSING SCORES	PRAXIS I C-PPST	TEST CODE	PASSING SCORES
Mathematics	10730	178	Mathematics	5730	178
Reading	10710	178	Reading	5710	178
Writing	20720	176	Writing	5720	176
PPST Composite Score		532	C-PPST composite Score		532

SAT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I

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.

Please note that the SAT® was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

ACT AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I

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**.

Please note that the ACT was approved as a substitute test **only** for Praxis I; individuals also must meet the Praxis II (subject area assessment) for initial licensure.

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VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (VCLA) AS A SUBSTITUTE TEST FOR PRAXIS I (READING AND WRITING)

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 an optional 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 will continue to allow 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 (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

ASSESSMENT REQUIREMENTS FOR VIRGINIA LICENSURE

Applicants requesting an initial teaching license are required to achieve passing scores on professional teacher's assessments prescribed by the Board of Education.

Assessments Required For Initial Licensure

The prescribed tests for Virginia for initial licensure are as follows:

VIRGINIA COMMUNICATION AND LITERACY ASSESSMENT (VCLA)

The Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment became effective January 1, 2006, for individuals seeking an initial Virginia license unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. For more information about the test content, test dates, costs, accommodations for individuals with disabilities, and registration, refer to the Web site, www.va.nesinc.com, or contact Evaluation Systems Pearson, P.O. Box 660, Amherst, MA 01004-9015; Telephone: (**866) 613-3292** or **(413) 256-2888; Teletypewriter (TTY): (413) 256-8032**.

On March 22, 2006, the Board of Education approved cut scores for the Virginia Communication and Literacy Assessment (VCLA). The Board approved a score of 235 for the reading subtest, a score of 235 for the writing subtest, **or** a composite score of 470 for the assessment.

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

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PRAXIS II: SPECIALTY AREA TESTS

The following tests are required for the following endorsement (teaching specialty) areas for initial licensure unless an individual meets the exemption criteria. Individuals are required to satisfy the Specialty Area test(s) requirement for only one endorsement area, but it must match an endorsement area in which the initial licensure is granted.

For information regarding registration, test administration, fees, the policy for testing individuals with disabilities, etc., please refer to the Web site, www.ets.org, or contact the Educational Testing Service (ETS) at 1-800-772-9476 or 609-771-7395 for THE PRAXIS SERIES Registration Bulletin or write to THE PRAXIS SERIES, ETS, P. O. Box 6051, Princeton, NJ 08541-6051. Hearing impaired individuals using a Telecommunications Device for the Deaf (TDD) may call 1-800-275-1391 for information.

Please note: Some Praxis II assessments are being added as computer-based tests. If the first digit of the Praxis II test code begins with a " 5 ", it is a computer -based test. Registration for new computer-based tests will become available approximately six weeks prior to the testing dates.

SPECIALTY AREA TEST	DATE TEST OFFERED BY COMPUTER	TEST CODE Praxis II test codes beginning with a "5" are computer-based tests.	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
ART (Visual Arts):				
Art: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2011)	N/A	(0133) **test no longer available**	159	Visual Arts
Art: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2011)	N/A	(0134) paper	158	Visual Arts
Art: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2011)	February 2013	(5134) computer	158	Visual Arts
BIOLOGY:				
Biology: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0235) paper	155	Biology
Biology: Content Knowledge	September 2012	(5235) computer	155	Biology
BRAILLE (Special Education-Visual Impairments):				
Braille Proficiency (This test is required effective 7/1/2011, except for teachers completing the approved Virginia Visual Impairments Consortium Program who must meet this requirement effective 7/1/2012.)	N/A	(0631) paper	168	Special Education-Visual Impairments
BUSINESS (Business and Information Technology):				
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	N/A	(0100) **test no longer available**	590	Business and Information Technology
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2010)	N/A	(0101) paper	157	Business and Information Technology
Business Education: Content Knowledge (taken after 9/1/2010)	December 2012	(5101) computer	157	Business and Information Technology
CHEMISTRY:				
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0245) paper	153	Chemistry
Chemistry: Content Knowledge	September 2012	(5245) computer	153	Chemistry
EARTH AND SPACE SCIENCES:				
Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0571) paper	156	Earth Science
Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge	October 2012	(5571) computer	156	Earth Science
ELEMENTARY EDUCATION:				
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0014) paper	143	PreK-3; PreK-6
Elementary Education: Content Knowledge	The computer test is available.	(5014) computer	143	PreK-3; PreK-6
ENGLISH:				
English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0041) paper	172	English
English Language, Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge	The computer test is available.	(5041) computer	172	English
FRENCH:				
French: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	N/A	(0173) **test no longer available**	169	French
French: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	The computer test is available.	(5174) computer	163	French

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SPECIALTY AREA TEST	DATE TEST OFFERED BY COMPUTER	TEST CODE Praxis II test codes beginning with a "5" are computer-based tests.	PASSING SCORE	ENDORSEMENT AREA
GERMAN:				
German: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	N/A	(0181) **test no longer available**	162	German
German: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	The computer test is available.	(5183) computer	163	German
FAMILY AND CONSUMER SCIENCES:				
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken before 9/1/2008)	N/A	(0120) **test no longer available**	550	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken after 9/1/2008)	N/A	(0121) paper	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
Family and Consumer Sciences (taken after 9/1/2008)	December 2012	(5121) computer	150	Family and Consumer Sciences
HEALTH AND PHYSICAL EDUCATION:				
Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0856) paper	151	Health and Physical Education PreK-12
Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge	August 2012	(5856) computer	151	Health and Physical Education PreK-12
MARKETING EDUCATION:				
Marketing Education (taken before 9/1/2008)	N/A	(0560) **test no longer available**	570	Marketing Education
Marketing Education (taken after 9/1/2008)	N/A	(0561) paper	147	Marketing Education
MATHEMATICS:				
Mathematics: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0061) paper	147	Mathematics
Mathematics: Content Knowledge	June 2012	(5061) computer	147	Mathematics
MIDDLE SCHOOL MATHEMATICS:				
Middle School Mathematics	N/A	(0069) paper	163	Middle Education Mathematics
MIDDLE SCHOOL-ENGLISH:				
Middle School English/Language Arts	N/A	(0049) paper	164	Middle Education English
Middle School English/Language Arts	The computer test is available	(5049)	164	Middle Education English
MIDDLE SCHOOL-SCIENCE:				
Middle School Science	N/A	0439) paper	162	Middle Education Science
MIDDLE SCHOOL-SOCIAL STUDIES:				
Middle School Social Studies	N/A	(0089) paper	160	Middle Education History and Social Sciences
Middle School Social Studies	The computer test is available	(5089) computer	160	Middle Education History and Social Sciences
MUSIC (Music-Vocal Choral or Music-Instrumental):				
Music: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0113) paper	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Music-Instrumental
Music: Content Knowledge	February 2013	(5113) computer	160	Music-Vocal/Choral or Music-Instrumental
PHYSICS:				
Physics: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0265) paper	147	Physics
Physics: Content Knowledge	September 2012	(5265) computer	147	Physics
SOCIAL STUDIES (History and Social Science):				
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	N/A	(0081) paper	161	History and Social Science
Social Studies: Content Knowledge	May 2012	(5081) computer	161	History and Social Science
SPAINISH:				
Spanish: Content Knowledge (taken before 9/1/2010)	N/A	(0191) **test no longer available**	161	Spanish
Spanish: World Language (taken after 9/1/2010)	The computer test is available	(5195) computer	168	Spanish
EDUCATION:				
Technology Education (taken before 9/1/2011)	N/A	(0050) test no longer available	610	Technology Education
Technology Education (taken after 9/1/2011)	N/a	(0051) paper	162	Technology Education

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READING FOR VIRGINIA EDUCATORS (RVE)

The reading assessments for Virginia changed on July 1, 2011. Please read this section carefully.

A reading assessment is prescribed by the Virginia Board of Education for individuals seeking the following endorsements unless the exemption criteria are met:

> (1) an initial Virginia license with the following endorsements: **Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education- General Curriculum, Special Education-Hearing Impairments, and Special Education-Visual Impairments**; or
>
> (2) an endorsement as a **reading specialist**.

Effective July 1, 2011, the Virginia Department of Education implemented changes in the required reading assessments for certain endorsements. For teachers seeking an initial license with endorsements in Early/Primary Education preK-3, Elementary Education preK-6, Special Education – General Curriculum, Special Education – Hearing Impairments, or Special Education – Visual Impairments, the required reading assessment is the **Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Elementary and Special Education Teachers Assessment (0306 paper or 5306 computer-based).** On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education set the passing score for this assessment at **157**.

Effective July 1, 2011, the required assessment for teachers seeking an endorsement as a **reading specialist is the Praxis Series Reading for Virginia Educators (RVE): Reading Specialist Assessment (0304 paper or 5304 computer-based).** On May 19, 2011, the Board of Education set the passing score for this assessment at **162**.

Both assessments are offered by Educational Testing Service (ETS). Information regarding the new assessments, including *Test at a Glance* documents, test centers, test dates, and registration information can be found at http://www.ets.org/praxis/va.

Individuals who were previously cited for the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) or Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (VRA for Reading Specialists) and who have not yet completed these tests are now required to take the new assessments. The VRA and VRA for Reading Specialists are no longer available.

VRA (no longer available) Taken Prior to June 30, 2011: Even though the Virginia Reading Assessment (VRA) and Virginia Reading Assessment for Reading Specialists (VRA for Reading Specialists) will not be administered after June 30, 2011, the Virginia Department of Education will continue to accept passing scores on the VRA assessments from individuals who took the tests prior to June 30, 2011. The cut scores for the Virginia Reading Assessments for elementary and special education teachers was 235 and the cut score for reading specialists was 245, effective July 1, 2006.

Copies of Official Score Reports

Upon registering for your assessment(s) you may have opted for your score(s) to be sent to the Virginia Department of Education. Please note that the Licensure Office does not receive a paper copy of the official score report(s) from the testing service. Because not all scores can be electronically accessed, please include a paper copy of your official score reports to the Licensure Office with your licensure application.