PA Basic Skills Requirement

PDE accepts test scores from 4 different test providers to meet the PA General Assembly’s basic academic skills requirement. All three basic skills (reading, writing, and math) tests must be passed at least once. This requirement must be met before any candidate can be granted admission to their teacher preparation program of choice.

At Ship, we often refer to this requirement as “passing the PAPA” but that statement should always be understood to mean “meeting the basic skills requirement” using any of the 4 test providers listed below.

1. **PAPA series** from Pearson (http://www.pa.nesinc.com/) - tests are Module 1 Reading (8001), Module 2 Math (8002), and Module 3 Writing (8003). It is a bit cheaper to take all 3 on the same date but doing so is NOT required. Individual tests may be scheduled on multiple testing dates. The passing score is 220 for the reading and writing test and 193 for the math test. However, a composite score of 663 with a minimum score on each module is also acceptable. The minimum scores (R-193, M-174, W-192) may only be used as part of the composite score process. Individual minimum scores NEVER count as passing scores.

2. **CORE series** from ETS (http://www.ets.org/praxis) - tests 5712 (Reading), 5722 (Writing), and 5732 (Math). It is a bit cheaper to take all 3 on the same date but doing so is NOT required. Individual tests may be scheduled on multiple testing dates. Passing scores are 156 for reading, 162 for writing, and 142 for math. A composite score of 467 is also acceptable as long as the minimum score is met for each test. The minimum scores (R-148, W-158, M-132) may only be used as part of the composite score process. Individual minimum scores NEVER count as passing scores.

3. **SAT exams** from College Board - your high school test scores may be used or these may be retaken if your high school scores were not high enough or if you never took the SAT exams before. A minimum score of at least 500 is required on each test. If the SAT writing test is NOT included, a candidate must also pass the PAPA writing test or the CORE writing test, regardless of the scores earned on the verbal (reading) and math tests.

4. **College Readiness Assessments** from ACT- your high school test scores may be used or these may be retaken if your high school scores were not high enough or if you never took the ACT test before. The ACT no longer calculates a combined score so that score is no longer needed. The ACT passing scores are Reading - 22; Math - 21; and Writing - 21.

**NOTE:** While passing scores on tests from different test providers are now acceptable, there is NO COMPOSITE score available for use when tests taken from different test providers are used. Each test provider uses a different scoring scale so there is no way to merge them. Composite scores may only be used when ALL three tests are taken from the same test provider.

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