

## Pennsylvania Department of Education Basic Skills Requirements

The Pennsylvania Department of Education (PDE) state law (22 Pa. Code § 49.18) requires that candidates for certification take part in an assessment program designed to assess their basic skills. The basic skills requirements are measured in three areas; Reading, Writing, and Math. Candidates must pass all three of these areas before 60 college credits have been completed. NO upper level education courses may be taken after the 60 earned credit mark until the basic skills requirement has been completely satisfied. PDE has approved the following measurements of basic skills:

SAT

ACT

PAPA ([http://www.pa.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML\\_FRAG/PA001\\_TestPage.html](http://www.pa.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/PA001_TestPage.html))

CORE (<https://www.ets.org/praxis/register>)

**\*Please be sure when testing with the external vendors to have your scores sent to Shippensburg University & the Pennsylvania Department of Education.**

\*Approved on August 6<sup>th</sup>, 2019, Shippensburg University Teacher Candidates in the listed grade bands below may use their specific combination of course work to fulfill the math portion of the basic skills requirements:

MAT 110 and MAT 111 (PreK-4 only) minimum grade B

MAT 140-A and MAT 117 (Secondary Ed only) minimum grade B

MAT 205 and MAT 117 (Middle Level only) minimum grade B

Specific PDE testing requirements can be found at the following link.

<http://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/CertTestingRequirements/>. PDE now accepts composite scores from the various basic skills measurements. PDE provides very detailed information when trying to determine what can be considered a “passing score”. From the link above you can access the policies and submission procedures, certification test and score requirements documentation, as well as a handy composite score calculator for basic skills requirements. Fulfilling the basic skills requirements can be done a number of ways listed in the certification test and score requirements documentation provided by PDE. For a short video explanation of the basic skills [click here](#). Additional study materials are located below.

The basic skills requirements generally covers 11<sup>th</sup> grade subject content. It is recommended that the basic skills requirements be completed as close as possible to the student’s freshmen year of college.

**It is important to verify use of your SAT and or ACT scores prior to spending the money to make additional attempts to fulfill the basic skills requirements.**

Also please note that your SAT scores that were used for admittance purposes into Shippensburg University may not necessarily qualify for PDE certification purposes.

If you have any questions regarding the Basic Skills requirements please contact Brad Nailor (Assessment & Accreditation Coordinator). email: [bmnailor@ship.edu](mailto:bmnailor@ship.edu) or telephone (717)477-1355.

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[PAPA Practice Test](#)

[http://www.pa.nesinc.com/Content/docs/PECT\\_PT\\_01\\_02\\_03\\_PAPA.pdf](http://www.pa.nesinc.com/Content/docs/PECT_PT_01_02_03_PAPA.pdf)

[PAPA Testing Breakdown](#)

[http://www.pa.nesinc.com/CONTENT/HTML\\_FRAG/STUDYGUIDE/Study\\_Guide\\_00100203\\_obj.htm#Reading](http://www.pa.nesinc.com/CONTENT/HTML_FRAG/STUDYGUIDE/Study_Guide_00100203_obj.htm#Reading)

[PAPA Study Resources](#)

[http://www.pa.nesinc.com/CONTENT/HTML\\_FRAG/STUDYGUIDE/Study\\_Guide\\_00100203\\_Resources.htm](http://www.pa.nesinc.com/CONTENT/HTML_FRAG/STUDYGUIDE/Study_Guide_00100203_Resources.htm)

[ETS CORE Test Taking Tips Webinar](#)

[https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/video/prepare\\_to\\_take\\_webinar](https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/video/prepare_to_take_webinar)

[CORE Reading Test Study Companion](#)

<https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5713.pdf>

[Mometrix CORE Reading Practice Test](#)

<https://www.mometrix.com/academy/praxis-reading-practice-test/>

[CORE Math Test Study Companion](#)

<https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5733.pdf>

[Mometrix CORE Math Practice Test](#)

<https://www.mometrix.com/academy/praxis-math-practice-test/>

[CORE Writing Test Study Companion](#)

<https://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5723.pdf>

[Mometrix CORE Writing Practice Test](#)

<https://www.mometrix.com/academy/praxis-writing-practice-test/>