

PDE Certification Testing Requirements and Passing Scores

PDE frequently updates the current requirements for PA certification on its website. The most efficient way to determine if you meet the certification requirements will be to use the resources provided by the state. The Office of Field Experiences and Partnerships (OFEP) maintains data relating to individual and institutional pass rates for basic skills and specialized tests; names and numbers of certification recipients; and other data relating to accreditation at state and national levels. The OFEP and the College of Education and Human Services (CEHS) is able to answer general certification questions. If you have a question about testing requirements, scores or other certification processes, please follow these steps to determine if you meet the certification expectations in your program.

1. To learn how the state determines testing requirements, check out the **PDE website** and/or listen to the webinar for more information.

<http://www.education.pa.gov/Teachers%20-%20Administrators/Certifications/Pages/Certification-Testing.aspx#tab-1>

2. To check passing scores for a specific battery of tests (SAT, ACT, PAPA, CORE or Instructional Certification Areas), download the **Certification Tests and Score Requirements** (note the tabs at the bottom of the Excel spreadsheet for Basic Skills or Instructional Areas). You can also download the **Composite Score Calculator** to determine if you have met the basic skills requirements with your test scores.

(image from PDE website)

TESTING REQUIREMENTS
Pennsylvania requires assessment of all candidates in basic skills, general knowledge, professional knowledge and subject area knowledge before a certificate may be issued.
Three documents are recommended reading:
1. Policies and submission procedures in CSPG 21 - Testing . (PDF)
2. Certification Test and Score Requirements (Excel)
3. Composite Score Calculator (Excel)

3. If you have questions, please contact Brad Nailor (Assessment & Accreditation Coordinator) at 717-477-1355 or bmnailor@ship.edu for specific information. Please know that you will be asked to share specific information you gathered from your investigation with the PDE resources listed above. This will help us determine a specific answer for you.
4. If we are unable to answer your specific questions, you will be referred to the PDE Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality at 717-PA-TEACH (728-3224) or 717-787-3356 or directed to submit a helpdesk ticket from the website above.
5. Remember, to be certified as a teacher in Pennsylvania, you must meet a number of requirements in addition to the certification tests, so be sure to follow your program's degree requirements. Please reach out to your academic advisor and/or department chairperson.