

Illinois Teacher Certification Testing Information

Updated May 2006

Registration Materials/Study Guides:

Registration materials for all Illinois Teacher Certification Tests are available online at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com>, through your local Regional Office of Education, or through the Dean's Office, College of Education & Professional Studies, 1420 Buzzard Hall. Candidates must register by mail (NES, Amherst, MA) or online 6-7 weeks before the test. Furthermore, test results are not available until approximately 4 weeks after the test. When registering for all tests please be sure to report EIU as a score recipient.

Study guides for all tests are available online at <http://www.icts.nesinc.com>.

If after reading this information sheet and the Registration bulletin you have any questions please contact Pat Holycross in the Dean's Office, College of Education & Professional Studies, 1420 Buzzard Hall (217-581-2524).

Required Tests

Basic Skills Test

Selection:

The Basic Skills Test is required for selection to all teacher certification programs. Test results must be received prior to the date selection is scheduled to be run. Students with questions should contact Bonnie Wilson, Dean's Office, College of Education and Professional Studies (217-581-2524).

Student Teaching:

Illinois law requires that all students pass the Basic Skills Test no later than final admission to a teacher education program which is required prior to student teaching. This means that students selected under the Quality Score Selection Process (TAP & GPA) must still plan to take the Basic Skills Test early. We will hold firm to this requirement and let no student begin Student Teaching unless they have already passed the Basic Skills Test.

Content Area Tests

All students must pass the appropriate content area test prior to beginning student teaching.

Documentation of passing this test must be on file with the CEPS Dean's Office by the end of the semester immediately preceding Student Teaching. For this reason it is important that students pay special attention to the date that test results are reported. Most students should plan to take this test no later than midway through the semester prior to student teaching. Consult your advisor about the proper time to take these tests. **Candidates completing the approved program in Special Education are encouraged to contact the EIU Department of Special Education regarding their testing requirements.**

Additional Endorsements:

Candidates wishing to add additional endorsements will be required to not only meet the hour requirements for that endorsement but also pass the appropriate content area test in that field (Candidates completing 32 hours in some additional endorsement areas **MAY** be exempt from the additional testing requirement). Candidates are strongly encouraged to take these tests so that the results are available prior to the completion of student teaching.

OVER

Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT)

All candidates for a teaching certificate in the State of Illinois must pass the Assessment of Professional Teaching (in addition to the Basic Skills and Content Area Test) in order to be awarded a certificate. Most students plan on taking the APT early in their student teaching semester (if student teaching in the Fall you may wish to take it the summer before student teaching).

There are 4 versions of the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) and the version a candidate takes is based on the certificate they are seeking:

Certificate Seeking

Early Childhood

Elementary

Secondary

Special K-12/P-12

APT Test Required

APT – Early Childhood

APT – Elementary or APT – Special

APT – Secondary or APT – Special

APT – Special

Individuals in programs leading to dual certificates in Elementary & Secondary, Elementary & Special K-12/P-12, or Secondary & Special K-12/P-12 are only required to take one APT if they take the APT – Special. However, a candidate who will be eligible for both an Early Childhood and Elementary Certificate (two certificates) will be required to pass both the APT Early Childhood and the APT – Elementary test (and these must be taken on different test dates).

Cost

Test fees for the Illinois Teacher Certification Test are established by the Illinois State Board of Education and National Evaluation System. For the 2006-2007 testing year the fees are set as follows for individuals meeting the regular registration deadlines (additional fees apply for late and emergency registration):

Single Test (Basic Skills, Content Area Test, APT)	\$85*
Two tests on the same date	\$145

* \$60 test fee + \$25 registration processing fee (paid once for each test date registered). The test fee structure is different for those taking the tests associated with the approved program in Special Education.

Information on this sheet is to serve as a guide and is current as of May 2006. All information on this sheet is subject to change based upon decisions of the Illinois State Board of Education. Only the Illinois State Board of Education can set policy regarding the granting of teaching certificates.