

# Illinois Teacher Certification Testing Information

## Updated August, 2004

### 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 (with the exception that results from the July 24 content area tests will be delayed until early October).

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

**Beginning Fall 2004, all students must pass the appropriate content area test prior to beginning student teaching.** 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.

The Content Area Tests changed in July 2004 to meet the new content area standards. According to ISBE, students passing the content test prior to July 2004 are not required to take/pass the new version of that test. These test results will continue to be valid for 5 years from the date of the test.

##### *Additional Endorsements:*

Beginning in Fall 2004, 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 POSSIBLY** be exempt from the additional testing requirement).

**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 2004-2005 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)

***Information on this sheet is to serve as a guide and is current as of August, 2004. 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.***