



June 29, 2017

This letter provides an overview of requirements for candidate program completion assessment for teacher preparation programs. Iowa requires assessment for teacher preparation programs only, and only for initial licensure.

1. This statutory assessment requirement is for program completion, it is not for licensure. This requirement does not affect graduation or degree conference. If a candidate seeks a license in another state that requires program completion, Iowa assessment requirements must be met before a program can certify candidate program completion for any state.
2. Candidate program completion assessment is a component of program assessment. For this reason, the program determines which assessment will be used and should be consistent for all candidates.
3. Candidates who add multiple endorsements are only required to be assessed in the initial or primary license/endorsement area. If a person is being prepared in secondary math and adds an endorsement in chemistry, for the content test requirement, the candidate need only take the content test in math.
4. Passing score requirements are determined by the Department of Education and are set at the first score above the 25<sup>th</sup> percentile of national scores. In order to maintain the statutory 25<sup>th</sup> percentile requirement, scores are updated every year in the summer, with an effective date of 1 August.
5. A candidate must meet the passing score requirement in place at the time he/she completes the program. An exception is made to protect candidates who student teach in fall. If a fall student teacher takes an assessment and achieves a passing score in the academic year before fall student teaching, and the passing score requirement changes 1 August before student teaching, the candidate can use the pre-1 August passing score until the end of the calendar year.

*This scenario illustrates this exception:*

- *The candidate is completing coursework in the spring of 2017.*
- *During the spring 2017 semester the candidate takes the ETS elementary education content test, earning a score of 152.*
- *The passing score requirement in place in spring 2017 is 151.*
- *The candidate has a passing score.*

- *After completing coursework in the spring, the candidate student teaches in fall of 2017.*
- *On 1 August 2017, the required score on the elementary education content test is raised to 153.*
- *This candidate's score of 152 will be considered passing until the end of December 2017.*

6. Iowa authorizes three options for program completion assessment that programs can choose from:

**Option 1:** ETS Praxis Series assessments. Candidates must pass two assessments:

- a. Pedagogy: The grade level appropriate Principles of Teaching and Learning (PLT) assessment.
- b. Content: The appropriate Praxis Content Assessment.

**Option 2:** The edTPA assessment appropriate for the content area of the endorsement being sought.

**Option 3:** ETS PPAT and Praxis Content assessment. Candidates must pass two assessments:

- a. Pedagogy: PPAT performance assessment.
- b. Content: The appropriate Praxis Content Assessment.

**Passing Score requirements:**

ETS Praxis Series assessments: Passing score requirements are listed on the ETS assessment scores tables on the Department Practitioner Preparation webpage.

edTPA: Passing score requirements are listed on the edTPA assessment scores table on the Department Practitioner Preparation webpage.

PPAT: The current passing score for PPAT is listed on the PPAT assessment score table on the Department Practitioner Preparation webpage.



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