

**NEBRASKA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
COMPETENCY REQUIREMENT**

The State Department of Education requires a competency examination for all applicants for admission to a teacher education program and a teaching certificate. Students need documentation of proficiency in reading, writing, and mathematics. Successful completion of the **PRAXIS I TEST** will meet this requirement. You may choose from the following two test options:



Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST)
Computer Pre-Professional Skills Test (C-PPST)



To register on-line or to download Tests at a Glance -- www.ets.org/praxis

A Praxis I Study Guide is available, for check-out, in 105 Henzlik Hall, with a \$35.00 deposit. The Study Guide is also in the Reference section of Love Library or you may purchase your own copy at the University Bookstore. For further study or practice, you may use the PLATO Web Site. Additional information is available for this, upon request in 105 Henzlik Hall.

Comparison of the Exams

	<u>PPST</u>	<u>C-PPST</u>
FORMAT	Paper & Pencil Format multiple-choice & essay	Computer Format multiple-choice & essay
PASSING SCORES	reading 170 writing 172 math 171	reading 170 writing 172 math 171
COST TO TAKE	\$170 for 3 tests \$130 for 2 tests \$90 for 1 test (These fees include a one-time \$50.00 registration fee for tests taken in the same testing year.)	\$130 all 3 tests taken same day \$160 - 3 tests on different days \$120 for 2 tests \$80 for 1 test
TESTING DATES	Nov 15, 2008 -- register by 10/16/08 Jan 10, 2009 -- register by 12/11/08 Mar 14, 2009 -- register by 2/12/09 April 25, 2009 -- register by 3/26/09 July 25, 2009 -- register by 6/25/09	by appointment Monday - Saturday every week (C-PPST can be taken once in a calendar month - maximum of 6 times per year.)
LOCAL TESTING PLACES	UNL Henzlik Hall	Sylvan Learning Center 5715 S. 34th St, STE 300 Lincoln, NE
HOW TO REGISTER	Register on-line at: www.ets.org/praxis	Call: 423-8833 (have credit card ready) (will take check if you walk-in)
RESULTS	mailed 4-6 weeks after test date	reading & math scores immediately; writing mailed 3-4 weeks after test Sylvan at Omaha = 402/ 334-9449 Sylvan at Columbus = 402/ 564-2862

The PRAXIS I Test is the choice of 35 of 43 states that include tests as their teacher licensure process.

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Information and registration materials including a sample test, are available in the College of Education & Human Sciences, Student Services Center, 105 Henzlik Hall, or on-line Praxis Web: www.ets.org/praxis.

Description of Exams that meet the Nebraska Department of Education Competency Requirement

Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST)

The Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST) measure competency in reading, writing, and mathematics. Each one-hour component consists of 40-45 multiple-choice questions. The writing test includes a 30-minute essay. Literal comprehension, the ability to understand how material is organized and how it conveys the message, and the ability to make reasoned qualitative judgements about the nature and merits of a written message are among the reading skills that are assessed. The ability to use grammar and language appropriately and to communicate in writing with a specific aim or purpose in mind are assessed in the writing portion. Mathematical competencies tested include knowledge acquired from having studied mathematics from elementary through secondary school.

Computer Pre-Professional Skills Test (C-PPST)

The Computer Pre-Professional Skills Test (C-PPST) contain computer delivered questions where you select single or multiple responses, highlight or reorder information, or create a constructed-response answer. The competencies tested are similar to those assessed in the paper/pencil Pre-Professional Skills Test. The C-PPST tests are adaptive, which means that questions are selected based on answers to previous questions. The writing test also includes an essay question. You will be given a choice between two topics selected from a list of 72 topics. The C-PPST is delivered via an IBM or compatible PC and can be taken once in a calendar month - maximum of 6 times per year. This applies even if you cancel your scores on a test taken previously. If you violate this restriction the scores from the re-test will not be reported and your test fees will not be refunded. Contact the Sylvan Learning Center, 5715 S. 34th St, Suite 300 in Lincoln, NE by calling 423-8833. (When scheduling by phone, you must use a credit card for payment. If you walk-in to schedule, they will accept a check.)

The testing fees entitle you to multiple official score reports.

For the **Paper/Pencil Test (PPST)**, you need to have copies sent to: 1) UNL; 2) Nebraska Department of Education; 3) To any other college or state department of education of your choice if you are planning on going to another college or state. A copy is automatically sent to you.

For the **Computer Test (C-PPST)**, you need to have copies sent to: 1) UNL; 2) Any other College; 3) A copy is automatically sent to you and to the Nebraska Department of Education.

**Retain your copy of the scores. They are permanently valid.
Educational Testing Services (ETS) only keeps your score for five years!**