



Information for Educator Preparation Programs Regarding Pre-Admission Content Tests (PACT)

A Pre-Admission Content Test (PACT) can be used to obtain admission into an Educator Preparation Program (EPP). Tests taken through the PACT route are the same tests used for certification. **Taking PACT does not ensure admittance into a program.** EPPs may have additional admission requirements.

With policy updates effective October, 2016, individuals who hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university or are scheduled to receive a bachelor's degree before being placed in a classroom, are allowed to take a content test for purposes of admission into the following types of EPPs: alternative certification programs, university alternative certification programs or university post baccalaureate programs (without content courses). An individual may not be placed in a classroom as a teacher of record under this section until receiving a bachelor's degree. Also, candidates may take a PACT if they have never been admitted to a Texas approved EPP or are transferring to a different EPP. If a candidate is transferring to a different EPP, the candidate's current EPP must complete a Candidate Transfer Form. Candidates must contact TEA Educator Certification and Testing at 512-936-8400, Option 2 for assistance to activate PACT approval.

NOTE: Candidates are limited to five attempts to take a certification test. The five attempts include the first attempt to pass the examination and four retakes, and include any of the test approval methods (PACT, EPP, out of state, charter, and CBE). Transferring to a different EPP does not change this policy requirement.

Candidates with Bachelor’s Degree or higher from an Accredited University or are Scheduled to Receive a Bachelor’s Degree Before Being Placed in a Classroom

- ▶ EPP approval is not necessary for candidates to register and take a content examination.
- ▶ EPP approval is still necessary for candidates seeking a certification other than classroom teacher or a certification with specific skill and experience requirements; see below.
- ▶ PACT participants cannot register to take Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities (PPR) examinations without EPP approval. All programs must upload approval to test in the TEA approval system before an admitted candidate will be able to register for the PPR.

College/University Undergraduate Teacher Certification Candidates

- ▶ Candidates in an undergraduate program seeking initial teacher certification must be approved by their EPPs for content area and PPR examinations. EPPs will upload approval into the TEA test approval system. EPP approval must be given prior to registering for any certification examinations.

Certifications Other Than Classroom Teacher or Certifications with Specific Skill and Experience Requirements

- ▶ Candidates in programs seeking certifications other than classroom teacher or certifications with specific skill and experience requirements — Educational Diagnostician, Health Science 6–12, Marketing 6–12, Principal, Reading Specialist, School Counselor, School Librarian, Superintendent and all of the Master Teacher certifications — still need test approval from their EPPs.

Out-of-State/Out-of-Country Certified Applicants

- ▶ Candidates who hold acceptable teaching credentials in another state, U.S. territory, or country must have their credentials reviewed by TEA prior to registering for tests. Following a review of credentials, they will be informed of the required examinations for the certification areas they are seeking.

Applicants Living Outside the State of Texas

- ▶ Candidates who live outside the state of Texas, but wish to take PACT for the purpose of entering an EPP in Texas, can test under the PACT program.
- ▶ If they live in Arkansas, Louisiana, New Mexico, Oklahoma, Puerto Rico and Mexico, they can test under the TExES PACT program. If they live in any other state that has expanded CAT test centers, they can also take PACT through the TExES program if the test they wish to take is offered.
- ▶ In all other areas, certain Praxis® Subject Assessments (formerly the Praxis II® tests) can be taken under the PACT program. For further information about taking Praxis™ tests under the PACT program, candidates should go to the Praxis website at www.ets.org/praxis and select Texas under “State Testing Requirements.”

Contingency Admission into an EPP

- ▶ If EPPs admit candidates prior to their receiving a conferred bachelor's degree, these candidates will require test approval before they can register for a certification test.

Registration Process for the PACT Participant

- ▶ Candidates should not create a TEA account prior to registering for a test taken via PACT.
- ▶ If candidates will be taking a *Praxis* Subject Assessment, they must register online through the *Praxis* website. They should go to www.ets.org/praxis and select Texas under "State Testing Requirements."
- ▶ PACT candidates testing through the TExES program can register online through the ETS TExES website at www.texas.ets.org unless they do not have a Social Security Number (SSN). If that is the case, they need to email EPPAdmin@ets.org and request that a PACT profile with a "P" SSN be created for them.
- ▶ Further registration instructions, including what information candidates without SSNs should include when requesting a PACT profile with a "P" SSN, are in the flyer *Information for Candidates Regarding Pre-Admission Content Tests (PACT)* which you may distribute to PACT candidates.
- ▶ Candidates will not be permitted to take a PPR examination without approval from their EPPs.

Test Day Policies and Procedures

- ▶ Before the day of the test, PACT candidates should read and be familiar with all policies and procedures in the *Registration Bulletin* for the test they are planning to take. *Registration Bulletins* can be downloaded from the ETS TExES website at www.texas.ets.org and the *Praxis* website at www.ets.org/praxis.
- ▶ Candidates must bring their admission tickets and acceptable identification documents with them to the test center. Details about acceptable identification documents are in the *Registration Bulletins* and on the websites. **Note:** Without the required identification documents, candidates will not be admitted to the test center and no refund will be approved.

PACT Scores

TEExES PACT

- ▶ Paper score reports are not sent to test takers.
- ▶ PACT test takers can view their score reports through their testing accounts on the ETS TEExES website.
- ▶ Scores are posted on the score reporting dates listed in the *Registration Bulletin* and on the ETS TEExES website.
- ▶ EPPs can view scores in the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP).

Praxis Tests

- ▶ Paper score reports are not sent to test takers.
- ▶ PACT test takers can view their score reports through their testing accounts on the *Praxis* website. Online scores are downloadable for one calendar year from the score reporting date.
- ▶ Scores are posted on the score reporting dates listed in *The Praxis Series™ Information Bulletin* and on the *Praxis* website.
- ▶ EPPs can view scores for candidates taking *Praxis* tests under the PACT program in the Accountability System for Educator Preparation (ASEP).
- ▶ Candidate scores will be reported with no pass/fail assignment in states where *Praxis* scores are not accepted. In those cases, EPPs must reference "Passing Scores by State for *Praxis* Tests Accepted for the TEExES Pre-Admission Content Tests (PACT) Program" on the *Praxis* website.

Additional Information

- ▶ If candidates have been admitted to an EPP, they should contact their program for more information.
- ▶ If candidates have not been admitted to an EPP, they may contact TEA at 1-512-936-8400, option 2.

Frequently Asked Questions

- Q.** Who can take Pre-Admission Content Tests (PACT)?
- A.** Candidates can take PACT if they hold a bachelor's degree or higher from an accredited college or university or are scheduled to receive a bachelor's degree before being placed in a classroom. A list of accredited colleges and universities is available at <http://ope.ed.gov/accreditation/>.
- Q.** What is the benefit of taking PACT?
- A.** Candidates can take a content examination to demonstrate content proficiency for possible entrance into an EPP in Texas. Taking PACT does not ensure a candidate will be admitted into a program. EPPs may have additional admission requirements.
- Q.** Who cannot take PACT?
- A.** Candidates seeking a certification other than classroom teacher — Educational Diagnostician, Health Science, Marketing, Principal, Reading Specialist, School Counselor, School Librarian, Superintendent and all of the Master Teacher certifications — will need to be approved by an EPP in order to register.
- Q.** Which tests cannot be taken under PACT?
- A.** Educational Diagnostician, Health Science, Marketing, Principal, Reading Specialist, School Counselor, School Librarian, Superintendent and all of the Master Teacher certification tests
- Q.** Can candidates who are already certified take PACT?
- A.** No, a certified individual must register as a certified teacher.
- Q.** What if TExES PACT testing is not offered in the candidate's area?
- A.** If candidates live outside the state of Texas but wish to take PACT for the purpose of entering an EPP in Texas, they can still test under the PACT program. Certain *Praxis*® Subject Assessments (formerly the *Praxis II*® tests) can be taken under the PACT program. For further information about taking *Praxis* tests under the PACT program, candidates should go to the *Praxis* website at www.ets.org/praxis and select Texas under "State Testing Requirements."
- Q.** If candidates need help studying for an examination, what is available?
- A.** Preparation materials are available for all examinations in the Test Preparation Resources section of the ETS TExES website at www.texas.ets.org.