



**STATE OF SOUTH CAROLINA**  
**DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**MOLLY M. SPEARMAN**  
*STATE SUPERINTENDENT OF EDUCATION*

**MEMORANDUM**

**TO:** Educator Preparation Providers

**FROM:** Mary Hipp  
Director, Office of Educator Services

**DATE:** June 15, 2019

**RE:** Updated Program Admission Assessment Requirements

On June 11, 2019, the State Board of Education (SBE) approved updated program admission assessment requirements for candidates seeking full admission to an undergraduate teacher preparation program. These changes reflect the redesigned Praxis Core Mathematics assessment with related passing score and include a composite score option for the three Praxis Core assessments. Please note that the composite score option includes the new mathematics exam—not the current version.

**Background**

S.C. Code Ann. Sections 59-26-20 and 59-26-40 require that candidates seeking full admission to undergraduate teacher preparation programs in South Carolina must earn passing scores on all sections of the state's adopted basic skills assessment in reading, mathematics, and writing. S.C. Code Ann. Section 59-26-30 authorizes the SBE to adopt nationally recognized educator examinations and set passing scores for each examination. In November 1997, the SBE approved for use in South Carolina the Praxis series of assessments developed and administered by Educational Testing Service (ETS).

In 2013, the SBE adopted the Praxis Core series to meet the statutory requirement of a basic skills assessment in reading, mathematics, and writing. Educator preparation providers must ensure that candidates earn passing scores on all three sections of Praxis Core for full admission to an undergraduate teacher preparation program or that candidates meet an SBE-approved qualifying exemption.

The updated Praxis Core requirements adopted by the SBE on June 11, 2019, are indicated below. Please note that the assessments in Reading and Writing, and the related passing scores, have not changed. ETS has issued updated test codes for these assessments. Candidates may continue to use passing scores on these assessments, regardless of test code. They may also continue to use a passing score on the current Praxis Core Math assessment and do not need to take the new math test. Again, the composite score option, however, only applies to the new Praxis Core Math assessment.

**Program Admission Assessment Requirement Effective September 1, 2019**

A candidate may meet the program admission assessment requirement by earning a passing score on all three sections of Praxis Core as indicated below.

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>
Praxis Core: Reading 5713 (updated code)	156
Praxis Core: Mathematics 5733 (new test and code)	150
Praxis Core: Writing 5723 (updated code)	158

**Composite Score Option Effective September 1, 2019**

A candidate may also meet the program admission assessment requirement by achieving a composite score of 464 on the three subtests, with no individual subtest score more than four points below the required passing score for that subtest.

<u>Required Composite Score: 464 or higher</u>	<u>Minimum Subtest Score</u>
Praxis Core: Reading 5713 (updated code)	152
Praxis Core: Mathematics 5733 (new test and code)	146
Praxis Core: Writing 5723 (updated code)	154

**Exemptions for Qualifying Scores on the SAT or ACT**

A candidate may exempt one or more section of Praxis Core by meeting a qualifying exemption. The program admission assessment exemptions approved by the SBE on June 13, 2017, established qualifying scores on the SAT or ACT. These exemptions remain in effect and are unchanged.

**SAT Exemption**

- 1100 Composite (Evidence-based Reading and Writing and Math): Candidate may exempt all sections of Praxis Core.
- 550 Evidence-based Reading and Writing: Candidate may exempt Praxis Core Reading and Writing.
- 550 Math: Candidate may exempt Mathematics subtest.

**ACT Exemption**

- 22 Composite: Candidate may exempt all sections of Praxis Core.
- 22 English: Candidate may exempt Reading and Writing subtests.
- 22 Math: Candidate may exempt Mathematics subtest.

If you have questions regarding this updated requirement for Praxis Core, the composite score option, or a qualifying exemption, please contact a member of the Educator Preparation Team.

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