

## **South Carolina Educator Preparation Guidelines: Standards, Policies, and Procedures** ***Undergraduate Program Admission Assessment Requirements***

Educator preparation providers must ensure that candidates successfully complete the basic skills assessment requirement in reading, mathematics, and writing established by the South Carolina State Board of Education (SBE) for full admission to an undergraduate teacher preparation program or that candidates meet an SBE-approved qualifying exemption.

### **Undergraduate Program Admission Assessment Requirement**

S.C. Code Ann. Sections 59-26-20 and 59-26-30 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 State Board of Education (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).

*Praxis Core Requirement: September 1, 2013–August 31, 2016*

In July 2013, the SBE adopted the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Praxis Core) series of basic skills assessments in reading, mathematics, and writing to meet the program admission requirement established in State statute. The Praxis Core series replaced the previous program admission assessment, the Praxis Pre-professional Skills Test (PPST)—commonly referred to as Praxis I. The following passing scores were adopted by the SBE in July 2013 and remained in place from September 1, 2013, until August 31, 2016. These scores were the recommended values of the multi-state standard setting studies conducted by ETS at the time the original Praxis Core series was developed.

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>
Praxis Core: Reading (5712)	156
Praxis Core: Mathematics (5732)	150
Praxis Core: Writing (5722)	162

*Praxis Core Requirement: September 1, 2016–August 31, 2019*

Based on analysis of three years of test-taker performance and stakeholder feedback, the SBE adopted adjusted passing scores for Praxis Core on June 13, 2017, effective retroactive to the beginning of that testing year on September 1, 2016. Passing scores on the mathematics and writing tests were adjusted one conditional standard error of measure (CSEM) below the scores originally approved by the SBE in 2013.

<u>Assessment</u>	<u>Passing Score</u>
Praxis Core: Reading (5712)	156
Praxis Core: Mathematics (5732)	142
Praxis Core: Writing (5722)	158

*Praxis Core Requirement: Effective September 1, 2019*

In 2018, ETS regenerated the mathematics subtest of Praxis Core and, in February 2019, conducted a multi-state standard setting study to determine a recommended passing score. Panelists included teacher preparation faculty from twenty states and the District of Columbia, and South Carolina was represented by two panelists. The panel recommended a passing score on the regenerated mathematics assessment of 150.

Beginning September 1, 2019, the following assessments and passing scores are required for admission to an undergraduate teacher preparation program in South Carolina.

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

*Composite Score Option: Effective September 1, 2019*

For full program admission, candidates must earn a passing score on all three sections of Praxis Core: reading, mathematics, and writing—or they must earn a composite score of at least 464 with no subtest score more than four points below the required passing score for that subtest.

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

**Undergraduate Program Exemption for Qualifying Scores on the SAT or ACT**

Through a proviso in the 2006 Appropriations Act, the General Assembly allowed for a composite score of 1100 on the verbal and mathematics portions of the SAT and a comparable composite score of 24 on the ACT to be used as exemptions for the state’s adopted program admission assessment (then Praxis I). This exemption for the SAT applied to the version of the assessment administered prior to March 2005.

In September 2006, the SBE approved an adjusted SAT exemption based on the 2005 redesign of the assessment, which added a required writing subtest and raised the total possible composite score from 1600 on the version administered between April 1995 and January 2005 to 2400 on the three-part assessment administered beginning March 2005. The SBE approved a composite score of 1650 on the three-part assessment while the comparable composite score exemption on the ACT remained 24. The approval by the SBE of this exemption eliminated the need for continued authorization through a budget proviso, and the exemption proviso was deleted from the Appropriations Act in 2012.

*SAT and ACT Exemptions Effective September 2006–June 12, 2017*

<u>Exemption</u>	<u>Composite Score</u>
SAT Version April 1995 to January 2005	1100
SAT Version March 2005 to January 2016	1650
Comparable ACT	24

*SAT and ACT Exemptions Effective June 13, 2017*

On June 13, 2017, the SBE adopted updated exemptions based on a redesigned SAT administered beginning in March 2016 and the related concordance tables for the SAT and ACT.

*SAT Exemption Effective June 13, 2017*

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

Individuals who earned a total score of at least 1650 (Math, Reading, and Writing) on the version of the SAT administered between March 2005 and January 2016 may exempt all three subtests of Praxis Core.

*ACT Exemption Effective June 13, 2017*

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