

Physical Education Teacher Education FAQs regarding Praxis and Other Tests

This handout is designed to answer the most frequently asked questions (FAQ) about required tests for admission and completion of the Physical Education Teacher Education program and certification requirements at the University of Rhode Island, within the School of Education and the Kinesiology Department. If you have questions about the tests or program requirements, you are always advised to meet with your program advisor. We have designed this sheet to answer the questions asked most often, and to clarify timelines and processes.

1. What tests are required?

- A. For admission, the **Praxis I: Pre-professional Skills Tests (PPST)** are the required standardized tests for all URI School of Education programs. Students can register for the PPST on ets.org or they can call the Prometric Center (located in Warwick, RI) at (401) 738-9172.
- B. Before the **Student Teaching term and granting of Rhode Island Teacher Certification/Licensure**, the **Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)** test is required. **Rhode Island physical education teachers may take EITHER the Elementary OR the Secondary level PLT test, because they are certified K-12.** (If you will be teaching in another state, contact that state's teacher licensure office, or consult the Educational Testing Service (ETS) web sites (www.ets.org) for state requirements and passing scores).
- C. Students will also take the **Praxis II: Physical Education Content Knowledge Test (0091)** prior to student teaching.

Summary: All PETE program students planning to student teach are required to take and pass the PLT test and the P.E. Content test prior to student teaching. If they do not pass the PLT and PE Content tests, students will not be allowed to student teach.

2. When must I have these tests taken?

- A. For your **application for the PETE program** and the School of Education, you must submit scores from all 3 PPST subtests (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) with your application and folio by the deadline (October 1st and February 1st). No exceptions.
- B. For your **Student Teaching application in Physical Education**, you must submit Scores for the **Praxis II: PLT** (beginning Fall 2005) and the **Praxis II: P.E. Content Knowledge** tests with your student teaching application and folio.
- C. **You must give a copy of your PLT and PE Content scores to the Office of Teacher Education (OTE) or you will not be able to student teach.**

3. What are “passing” scores?

- A. For admission, "Passing"* scores for the Praxis I: PPST have been set at the same level across all School of Education programs, and coincide with the scores required for Connecticut state teaching licensure. The minimum scores for acceptance in each of the 3 subtests: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics are:

Reading	172
Writing	171
Mathematics	171

If students applying to the Physical Education Teacher Education program have scored 1100 or more on their SAT's, they do not need to take the PPST.

- B. "Passing" scores for the PLT for licensure in RI ** is 167.
**Requirements are set at each state—so those desiring certification/licensure in another state need to check with the Department of Education in that state.
- C. The “Passing” scores for the P.E. Content Knowledge (#0091) for program completion is 154.

4. What happens if I don't pass the tests?

- A. Students not passing all three sections of the PPST test will **NOT BE CONSIDERED** for PETE or School of Education program admission. As a result, they will have to reapply after passing all three sections of the PPST test.
- B. **Students who do not pass the Praxis II: PLT prior to student teaching** are not eligible for student teacher placement, licensure in RI, or for licensure/certification in states with cooperative licensure agreements.
- C. **It is important to note** that if students do not give a copy of their PLT and P.E. Content scores to personnel in the Office of Teacher Education prior to student teaching, they will not be allowed to student teach until they do so. The cost of the PLT's is \$85.00 and the cost of the P.E. Content test is \$75.00.

5. What if I retake the tests and still don't pass them...what can I do?

- A. Remedial help can come in several forms...through coursework in math, writing, or reading; through test tutoring programs; or through practice testing programs. Students who cannot pass the tests the first or subsequent times are encouraged to seek assistance from professional sources, and not to rely on just retaking the tests. Retaking tests without preparation is time consuming and expensive.
- B. There are PPST, PLT, and PE Content **test preparation booklets** on reserve in the University library provided by the Department of Kinesiology (under the last name of Ciccomascolo).

- C. The **Educational Testing Service** (ETS: www.ets.org/praxis) also provides test reviews, practice tests, and resources, both online and in their booklets.
 - D. **The School of Education** will hold PLT Test Information Sessions in both the fall and spring semesters. Please ask PETE faculty for further information.
6. **Why do I have to take these tests?**
- A. Although you may do well in your major or core classes, teaching requires basic communication skills. These are the skills assessed in the PPST subtests. Teachers must be better than average to meet the national accreditation standards in today's world of accountability. URI SOE programs are accredited by national boards (NCATE), and our graduates often seek and secure jobs in states outside of RI. Meeting accreditation standards is important to this reciprocal licensure agreement, and to maintaining a quality reputation for our graduates to get good jobs.
 - B. The Praxis II: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) tests examine your classroom management and discipline knowledge and skills, your ability to solve classroom problems, and to address the developmental needs of students across the K-12 school programs. The PLT tests are designed for either elementary OR secondary level teachers and questions are designed to match the developmental needs of students and issues related to effective teaching at each level. As you will discover, you are not “just a P.E. Teacher”, you are a “Teacher and Professional”—and are expected to be knowledgeable about student needs and to be able to serve and operate in the school and community.
 - C. We are in an age of “accountability” and “outcomes assessment.” The Praxis II: Physical Education Content Knowledge assesses your ability to analyze student movement and fitness levels, and make appropriate teaching decisions to help students become “physically educated.” Data from this program will also be reported to our national accreditation boards to ensure the program is aligned with the standards expected of “Nationally Recognized Professional Teacher Education” programs and institutions.

If you have further questions, please make an appointment as early as possible with your academic advisor, or a PETE program faculty member.

