

VII. HOW TO OBTAIN CERTIFICATION

There are several steps that you must follow in order to obtain a Pennsylvania teaching certificate. Each of these steps is relatively simple as long as you do not leave them for the last minute. If you are interested in obtaining your certificate immediately following graduation, you should sign up for the first three PRAXIS tests listed below in your junior year and the additional tests in the fall of your senior year (see Step 2 below – note that secondary (7-12) certification candidates do not take Fund Subj. Content Knowledge #0511). *Note: Students pursuing certificates from other states should contact educational officials in those states in order to determine certification requirements. Websites for Education Departments in the 50 states can be found at <http://www.ed.gov/Programs/bastmp/SEA.htm>.*

STEP 1: COMPLETE YOUR TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAM

This means that you are working toward meeting all of the requirements for the grade level or subject area certificate that you are pursuing. Your advisor can provide you with a list of the courses that you must take in order to qualify for a certificate. It is important to remember that Bucknell does not grant certificates, but rather recommends candidates for certification. Bucknell can only recommend students who have successfully met all program and state requirements. In addition, the state requires that students recommended for certification be of good moral character. For more information about Pennsylvania's requirements for certification please refer to the Pennsylvania Department of Education website at: <http://www.teaching.state.pa.us/teaching/cwp/view.asp?a=90&Q=32511&teachingNav=|93|>

STEP 2: TAKE THE REQUIRED PRAXIS TESTS

Pennsylvania currently requires students to take a variety of different tests to obtain their teaching certification. These tests are part of the PRAXIS series administered by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). The Pennsylvania Department of Education provided the following information as of September 1, 2003.

Tests Required for Pennsylvania Teaching Certification

Effective September 1, 2003

Certificate Type (Instructional I)	PPST Reading (0710)	PPST Writing (0720)	PPST Math (0730)	Fund. Subj. Content Knowledge (0511)	Content Area Test (See box on the right)
N-3, K-6	X	X	X	X	X
Secondary (7-12)	X	X	X		X
K-12	X	X	X	X	X

*Content Areas Tests:
 Art 0133
 Biology 0235
 Chemistry 0245
 Communication 0800
 Early Childhood Ed. 0020
 Earth and Space 0571
 El. Ed. C., I., & A. 0011
 English 0041
 Environmental 0830
 French 0173
 German 0181
 Spanish 0191
 General Science 0435
 Math 0061
 Music 0113
 Physics 0265
 Social Studies 0081
 Citizenship 0087

Notes:

1. The Pennsylvania Department of Education will recognize PRAXIS scores for a period of five years after administration.
2. All candidates must meet the qualifying score in effect at the time of the application for certification.
3. Any candidate who wishes to add a new area to an existing certificate or who will be recommended for dual certification must take an appropriate specialty area test for each subject area.
4. Students pursuing N-3 and K-6 certification must take both Early Childhood Ed (#0020) and El.Ed. C, I, &A (#0011).
5. Foreign languages, art, and music are K-12 certificates.

QUALIFYING SCORES – PRAXIS SERIES

NQS = no qualifying score

GENERAL TESTS			
PPST: Reading (0710)	172	Gen. Science: Cont. Know. (0435)	146
PPST: Writing (0270)	173	Mathematics: Cont. Know. (0061)	136
PPST: Mathematics (0730)	173	Music: Cont. Know. (0113)	158
Fundamental Subject Content Knowledge (0511)	NQS	Physics: Cont. Know. (0265)	140
PLT K-6 (0522)	167	Social Studies Cont. Know. (0081)	157
PLT 7-12 (0524)	167		
Computerized PPST Reading (5710)	172		
Computerized PPST Writing (5720)	173		
Computerized PPST Mathematics (5730)	173		
CONTENT AREAS			
Art: Cont. Know. (0133)	161		
Biology (0235)	147		
Chemistry: Cont. Know. (0245)	154		
Communication (0800)	530		
Early Child. Ed. (0020)	530		
Earth Sci: Cont. Know. (0571)	157		
Elem. Ed. Curr. Inst. & Assessment (0011)	168		
Eng. Lang. Lit. & Comp. Cont. Know. (0041)	160		
Environmental Ed. (0830)	NQS		
Foreign Lang. Pedagogy (0840)	160		
French: Cont. Know. (0173)	170		
German: Cont. Know. (0181)	165		
Spanish: Cont. Know. (0191)	166		

The most up-to-date information on the tests required for Pennsylvania is available on the PRAXIS website at <http://www.ets.org/praxis/>. To register for these tests you should get the PRAXIS bulletin at <http://www.ets.org/praxis/>. The website explains how to sign up for the tests and provides test dates, locations, and registration deadlines.

Because Pennsylvania requires certification candidates to take several tests, you will need to sign up for at least two test dates early in the fall semester. Most students take the first four tests listed above in their junior year and the additional tests in the fall of their senior year. Information about preparing for these tests can be found at the PRAXIS website listed above. *All of your tests must be completed by the end of March if you hope to receive your certificate immediately following graduation. It is wise to register for these tests well in advance.*

STEP 3: FILL OUT THE PAPER WORK

The state requires that you complete an application and pay a licensing fee to receive your certificate (you should have already completed your child abuse history and criminal background check prior to student teaching). These forms are available on the Education Department website: http://www.bucknell.edu/Academics/Colleges_Departments/Academic_Departments/Education/Forms.html. The Education Department will send you a reminder by the end of February to complete this part of the licensure process.

If you have met the March deadline for your PRAXIS exams, completed forms should be returned to the department secretary in the Education Department Office along with a money order for the licensing fee (currently \$40.00) payable to the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania. If you are getting more than one certificate and you have completed all of the required tests on time, you only need to complete one application and pay one fee. Please inform the department secretary of your intent to be dual certified.