

Policy TCED-009: Minimum Admissions Requirements and Exceptions for Initial Teacher Preparation Programs (EPPs)

Status: ADOPTED

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NORTH CAROLINA STATE BOARD OF EDUCATION

Policy Manual

Item	Description
Policy Title	Minimum Admissions Requirements and Exceptions for Educator Preparation Programs (EPP) Leading to Initial Licensure
Policy Category	Teacher Education (TCED)
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Statutory Reference	G.S. 115C-269.15, G. S. 115C-269(9)
NC Administrative Code	<p>16 NCAC 06C .0391 TESTING EXEMPTIONS FOR ADMISSION INTO AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/VxHkwNOdAQkfiH0VkaF91A==)</p> <p>16 NCAC 06C .0392 TESTING REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO AN EDUCATOR PREPARATION PROGRAM (https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/MqAdnE4lhqPRWjLcZzEfA==)</p>

Due to the extraordinary circumstances created by the COVID-19 pandemic which have resulted in school closures, a temporary modification of teacher education policies is in effect from May 4, 2020, to June 30, 2021. These policy modifications can be found in Section III of TCED-009.

Initial Teacher Preparation Program (EPP) Minimum Admission Requirements

The following requirements apply to students who seek an Initial Professional License (IPL) or a Residency License (RL).

I. Testing Requirements & Exemptions

A. Testing Requirements

1. Degree-seeking students must satisfactorily complete the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators for formal admission to approved North Carolina EPPs. The required scores follow:
 - Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading 156
 - Core Academic Skills for Educators: Writing 162
 - Core Academic Skills for Educators: Mathematics 150
2. Individuals with a composite score of 468 on Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators: Reading, Writing, and Mathematics shall be deemed to have satisfied this requirement.

B. Exemptions from Testing Requirements

1. Individuals with a total SAT score of 1100 taken prior to March 2016 are exempt from Praxis Core testing requirements for teacher education program admission. Individuals with a total redesigned SAT score of 1170 taken after March 2016 are exempt from Praxis Core testing requirements for teacher education program admission.
2. Individuals with a total SAT score of less than 1100 taken prior to March 2016, but a score of at least 550 on the Verbal test are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Tests in Reading and Writing for teacher education program admission. Individuals with a total redesigned SAT score of less than 1170, but a score of at least 600 on the evidence-based reading and writing test are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Tests in Reading and Writing for teacher education program admission.
3. Individuals with a total SAT score of less than 1100 taken prior to March 2016, but a score of at least 550 on the Math test are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Test in Mathematics for teacher education program admission. Individuals with a total redesigned SAT score of less than 1170 taken after March 2016, but a score of at least 570 on the Math test are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Test in Mathematics for teacher education program admission.

4. Individuals with a composite ACT score of 24 are exempt from Praxis I Core testing requirements for teacher education program admission.
 5. Individuals with a composite ACT score of less than 24, but with a score of at least 24 on the English test are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Tests in Reading and Writing for teacher education program admission.
 6. Individuals with a composite ACT score of less than 24, but a score of at least 24 on the Math test are exempt from the Preprofessional Skills Test in Mathematics for teacher education program admission.
 7. Individuals who hold a bachelor's degree.
- C. An EPP may apply to the State Board of Education for an exemption from PRAXIS Core for an individual who, due to extenuating circumstances, has not been able to pass PRAXIS Core. The application must include:
1. A document, signed by the individual, which includes:
 - a. Copies of the official scores for all the PRAXIS Core tests that the individual has taken;
 - b. A description of the extenuating circumstances that the individual claims prevented him or her from passing PRAXIS Core and,
 - c. An acknowledgment that the individual understands that the materials submitted to the State Board of Education in support of his or her request are public records subject to disclosure under Chapter 132 of the North Carolina General Statutes.
 2. The dean of the school of education at the EPP shall submit:
 - a. Evidence that the individual has passed tests in reading, writing, and mathematics sufficient to demonstrate that the individual is qualified to successfully complete the teacher education program at the EPP, and,
 - b. A copy of the individual's official transcript at the EPP.
 3. Decision of the State Board of Education
 - a. Requests for exemptions to teacher education program Praxis Core admission requirements will be considered by the Extenuating Circumstances Committee. The panel may require the dean of the EPP that submitted the application for exemption, as well as the individual seeking the exemption, to provide additional information, appear before the panel, respond to questions, produce documents and otherwise cooperate with the panel's efforts to evaluate the merits of the request for exemption. With the approval of the chair of the panel, members may participate in panel meetings by telephone.
 - b. After it receives the panel's recommendation, the State Board of Education shall make a decision whether to grant or deny the requested exemption.

II. GPA Requirements & Exemptions

A. GPA Requirements

1. Students must have earned a grade point average of at least 2.7 on a four point scale for formal admission to approved North Carolina EPPs.
2. A recognized EPP shall ensure that the minimum cohort grade point average for each entering cohort to an EPP is at least a 3.0 on a four point scale.

B. Exemptions from GPA Requirements

1. The individual GPA requirement does not apply to clinical resident (as defined in 115C-269 (9) students if the hiring local education agency determines that the student meets one of the following criteria:
 - a. The student has at least 10 years of relevant experience.
 - b. For a program leading to licensure in career and technical education, the student has at least five years of relevant experience.
2. The Department of Public Instruction will create a list of sample evidences and documentation to guide the local education agencies in **determining relevant experience**.

III. Policy Modifications Related to COVID-19 Pandemic

The following policy modifications are based on provision in NC Session Law 2020-3 and are in effect from May 4, 2020 to June 30, 2021.

1. (Modifies Sections IA, IB, and IC, IIA of TCED-009) For the 2020-2021 academic year only, a recognized EPP shall be permitted to admit students as follows:
 - A. An individual student shall not be required to meet any of the criteria set in G.S. 115C-269.15(a):
 1. Attained a passing score or prescribed minimum score set by the State Board for a preprofessional skills test
 2. Achieved the appropriate required scores on the verbal and mathematics portions of the SAT or ACT.
 3. Hold a bachelor's degree (Residency Licenses do require a bachelor's degree under G.S. 115C-270.20(a)(5)b.1).
 - B. An individual shall not be required to have earned a grade point average of at least 2.7. However, the EPP shall not permit a student to commence with a clinical practice (internship) until the student has earned a grade point average of at least 2.7.
 - C. The minimum cohort grade point average for the entering cohort to an EPP for the 2020-2021 academic year shall not be required to be at least 3.0.

State References

GS 115C-269.15

Description

Minimum admissions requirements for educator preparation programs - <https://simbli.eboardsolutions.com/SU/AqeuT5RxcuibRai041PFqA==>