

FAQ – State Assessments for Undergraduates

What are the steps to TExES certification exam approval with UHCL?

- Complete course work based on degree plan/certification area(s) (see CoE Academic Advisor)
 - Apply and be accepted into the Teacher Education Program
 - Complete Core Content and Pedagogy PSPs during 4100/4102 course
 - Complete a practice exam, representative of the certification exam, and meet passing standard
 - Submit both PSP and corresponding practice exam to the UHCL State Assessments Office
 - Receive approval for TExES certification exam registration
 - ❖ *Unsuccessful attempts at the TExES will result in additional requirements*
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Questions regarding the Personal Study Plans (PSP)

Q: What is a PSP and why is it necessary?

A: The purpose of the PSP is to keep track of the time spent studying and preparing for a specific exam. Students should record what is being studied and for how long.

Q: Do PSPs have to be approved? Is an instructor signature required?

A: Core Content and Pedagogy PSPs are approved during the TCED 4100/4102 course by the instructor. Typically, given the time constraints of the course, PSPs for supplemental exams such as Sped, BTLPT, Bilingual and ESL are done outside of the course but prior to testing approval.

Q: Who approves the PSP if we fail an exam?

A: Approval of subsequent PSPs after a state exam failure is not required. However, it is required that the student will adjust their study plan to better prepare for the next attempt and **MUST** submit this new PSP prior to approval for any attempts after an initial TExES certification exam failure.

Q: Are the PSPs completed in TCED 4100/4102 acceptable for preparation and submission prior to the TExES certification exam?

A: There is no need to recreate a new PSP after your TCED 4100/4102 course, even though it will likely be a few semesters before you take the TExES certification exam. However, it is highly recommended that study does not end with the PSP completion. Study should continue all the way until the exam is taken to ensure successful results.

Q: How much time is sufficient study for each exam?

A: Refer to the first bullet of the PSP document for study time recommendations per each subject exam.

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Q: If we have submitted our PSPs via the TCED 4100/4102 Blackboard, do we need to send them to anyone else?

A: To ensure compliance with current policy, students must submit the State Assessments Office with a copy of all PSPs. APPROVED versions should be sent to the State Assessments inbox for filing into the student's electronic folder. PSPs can be submitted along with Practice exam scores or they can be sent in separately.

Q: In what format should I submit should I submit my PSP?

A: PSPs may be submitted either legibly handwritten or typed and then scanned in as a pdf or Word document. No photographs, pictures or screenshots. A single .pdf or Word document containing all 5 subjects for the EC6 is acceptable so long as there is a separate page for each subject. Please save the files so they contain all of the PSPs for a particular exam. Avoid sending in one single file with PSPs for multiple exams.

Q: How do I submit my PSPs?

A: Email a copy of all PSPs (pedagogy/content/supplemental) to: stateassessments@uhcl.edu

Be sure to name the files appropriately (i.e. PPR PSP [last name] or EC6 PSP [last name]) and ensure they are in .pdf or .doc format.

Questions regarding Practice Exams

Visit: <https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/>

Expand Step 2: Take Practice Tests for links; Also scroll to TExES Preparation Resources and expand for more information on each program.

Q: Do I have to get approval to take practice exams?

A: In preparation for the first attempt of any TExES certification exam, students may select the practice exam program of their choice with no approval needed. All practice exams are available online. Costs and preparation resources that accompany the practice exams vary depending on the program that is chosen.

Note - After a state exam failure, Exam Edge is the required second practice exam. A voucher will be provided to the student from the State Assessments Coordinator making it free of charge.

Q: Are there a limited amount of times we may take the practice tests?

A: You will need to submit a practice exam with a score $\geq 80\%$ or 240 for approval of your first attempt at any TExES certification exam. It may take you multiple practice exam attempts to reach that minimum passing standard.

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Q: When we send our practice test results, do we just type them in an email or do we need to screenshot the website?

A: Students must submit actual documentation from the practice exam entity; a pdf report or certificate is typically available from all practice exam vendors. An email message simply containing the score will not be accepted.

Q: When I take the Core Content EC-6/4-8 practice exam, should I submit each practice score separately or submit in one email?

A: Submit the EC-6 Core Subjects and 4-8 Core Subjects practice exams together in one email. All other practice exam scores may be submitted individually. PSPs may be submitted in the same email as the corresponding practice exam scores if they have not already been submitted.

Q: How do I submit the practice exam scores?

A: Email a copy the passing practice exam score report document to stateassessments@uhcl.edu

Q: Is there a specific website where we take practice exams?

A: UHCL does not endorse any particular entity for taking your practice exams. Students should look into the options available based on the preparation materials available, cost, etc. The most commonly used programs are through Certify Teacher, 240 Tutoring, Exam Edge, Pearson Interactive or the REA manual from the TCED 4100/4102 course.

Q: Are any practice exams available in person?

A: UHCL is not currently offering paper practice exams on campus.

More about Certify Teacher:

Certify Teacher has an access/promo code (UHCL4728) for \$35 for 3 years. You must use your UHCL email address when setting up your account for Certify Teacher.

Q: Does Certify Teacher offer study guides or only practice exams?

A: Both

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More about 240 Tutoring:

240 Tutoring has free diagnostic exams available or more in-depth practice exams for a monthly subscription fee. UHCL students may request to be added to the discount subscription promo of \$20/month by emailing stateassessments@uhcl.edu and providing their UHCL Student ID and UHCL email.

Q: What is the benefit of taking the diagnostic exam with 240 Tutoring?

A: The diagnostic exam provides practice and gives information on areas you need to focus on regarding competencies. It is a free exam.

Q: May I submit the diagnostic exam from 240 tutoring or am I required to submit the final practice exam only?

A: Yes, you may submit the diagnostic practice exam, but it is highly recommended that you to take the actual practice exam as it is a greater tool for preparation.

More about the Pearson Interactive Exams:

Q: Can we use the Pearson practice exams?

A: Yes, Pearson offers a few Interactive Exams for a fee of \$10.

- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 – (160)
- Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) – (190)
- Mathematics 7–12 – (235)
- Science 7-12 – (236)
- Science of Teaching Reading – (293) ...Coming Soon!

Questions regarding TExES Exams

Q: Do we need to receive permission to take the TExES certification exam?

A: Yes, you will receive an email from the State Assessments Coordinator when registration approval has been granted. This will be dependent upon submission of all necessary practice exams and PSPs. Incomplete information or incorrectly submitted documents will result in a delay of approval.

Q: How long does it take to get approval after the practice exam scores are submitted?

A: Approval is typically granted within 72 hours of when the email has been received. Approval is not granted on weekends, holidays, and when UHCL is closed. Approval will be contingent upon the student supplying all required documents (i.e. practice exams and PSPs).

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Q: How do I receive approval to take the TExES certification exam?

A: Once the State Assessments Office has received the necessary documentation (passing practice exam score and PSPs for the state exam which you wish to take) you will receive an email granting approval along with instructions to register for the TExES exam. *NOTE – BTLPT approval requires attendance at a UHCL sponsored workshop.*

Q: Once I receive the approval to register email, how long do I have to register?

A: That will depend upon the personal situation of each student. There are costs and scheduling issues associated with the TExES which students must evaluate for themselves. Additionally, there are timelines to consider such as time left in the semester, holidays, preparation, among many other factors. It is highly recommended that students register for an exam sooner rather than later. Once an exam is paid for (considered 'registered') you must schedule an appointment within 170 days.

Q: How do I pay for the TExES certification exam?

A: When you receive an email from the State Assessments Office granting approval to take the state exam, there will be a link to the Pearson website where you will register and pay for the exams. Exam fees vary.

Q: What if I am not successful on a TExES certification exam?

A: Per policy students must do the following:

- Update their PSP with additional study time and preparation.
- Communicate directly with the State Assessments Coordinator to discuss preparation for the next attempt.
- Receive a voucher for a second practice exam through Exam Edge; this will come from the State Assessments Coordinator
- Submit updated PSP along with practice exam with minimum scoring requirements (practice exam score requirements increase with each subsequent attempt at the TExES)

Q: What if I failed one or more subjects on my Core Content exam?

A: Students do not need to take the entire Core Content exam again. Students would complete a practice exam only for the subject(s), meet the required passing standard and be granted approval for their next state exam attempt. See state testing policy for guidelines on what retaking only portions of the state exam.

http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=TXCBT_TestingPolicies.html&t=TX291

Q: How much time must pass between taking the same exam again?

A: TEA mandated 30 day waiting period between testing appointments. See Retake Policy:

http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=TXCBT_TestingPolicies.html&t=TX291

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Q: How many times may I take a TExES certification exam?

A: TEA limits candidates to five (5) attempts. The five attempts include the first attempt to pass the exam and four retakes. A sixth attempt will require a TEA Waiver and approval. This waiver would be completed in partnership with the UHCL State Assessments Office.

Q: What date do I have to have my exams passed by to participate in TCED 4978 Internship II Clinical Teaching?

A: Students should plan to have all TExES certification exams initially taken (& ideally passed) by the grade posting deadline of their Internship I semester. All state exams **must** be passed prior to the close of late registration in each long (fall/spring) semester. The (hard) date will vary each semester.

Refer to the UHCL Academic Calendar website for registration deadlines

<https://www.uhcl.edu/academics/resources/academic-calendar/>

Q: Do supplemental exams need to be passed prior to participating in TCED 4978 Internship II Clinical Teaching?

A: Yes, all TExES exams includes the Bilingual Supplemental, BTLPT, ESL, SPED EC-12, and Science of Teaching Reading. The exams required will vary based on each student's individual certification area.

Q: What is the difference between test #291 and #391. Do the EC-6 candidates take both?

A: The #291 is the EC-6 Core Subjects test released prior to January 1, 2021. The #391 is the updated EC-6 Core Subjects tests that eliminates duplicate content between the ELAR and STR. The 391 exam is recommended for first time test takers after January 1, 2021. Completion of either exam is admissible for EC-6 certification. The #291 exam will cease to be available December 31, 2021.

Q: Do we choose the location to take the TExES Exam?

A: Yes, you choose the location where you wish to take the exams. You will use the Seat Availability Tool in the Pearson registration site to select open locations based on the date and time you prefer.

Science of Teaching Reading (STR #293) Questions

Beginning January 2021, the following certifications will require the Science of Teaching Reading TExES exam as a part of their certification.

- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood–Grade 6
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8
- English Language Arts and Reading: Grades 4–8
- English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies: Grades 4–8

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Q: When will the STR be available?

A: The exam is available as of January 1, 2021.

Q: Will the STR exam keep us from participating in TCED 4978 Internship II - Clinical Teaching?

A: All certification areas in which the STR is a requirement require successful completion of the exam prior to Internship II enrollment.

Q: Will the STR exam effect those who plan to graduate in May 2021?

A: Yes, only if the STR exam has not been passed. As is the case with any TExES certification exams that have not been passed.

Q: Does the STR have a constructed response portion or is it all multiple choice like the other exams?

A: The exam has both multiple choice and constructed responses.

http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/TX293_TestPage.html

Helpful links:

UHCL State Assessments for Educator Certification:

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/>

Guide to creating a testing account, registration and scheduling an exam:

http://www.tx.nesinc.com/content/docs/TX_AccountRegisterSchedule.pdf

Pearson Testing Policy: http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=TXCBT_TestingPolicies.html&t=TX291

TExES registration: <https://www.tx.nesinc.com/>

UHCL State Assessments inbox: stateassessments@uhcl.edu

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