

Basic Skills Assessment

All students must pass the basic skills assessment requirement set forth by the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Please review the following options carefully. There are now many options in obtaining qualifying scores for the basic skills requirements in order to move forward in the Pitt-Greensburg Education Program.

SAT (Scholastic Achievement Test) Option

Test scores prior to March 1, 2016

Composite score of 1500 or greater with individual passing scores of 500 (or better) in each of the three modules (Critical Reading, Mathematics and Writing).

Test scores after February 29, 2016

A passing score of Reading (27), Mathematics (26) and Writing and Language (28) is required. However, a composite score of 81 is also acceptable IF minimum scores of Reading (25), Mathematics (24) and Writing and Language (26) are met.

- ✓ Obtain test scores in the College Board website and submit to the Pitt-Greensburg Education Department (FACH211). Score report must include your first and last name as well as your mailing address. Scores will be verified by the Education Department and processed through the TIMS system.

ACT (The American College Test) Plus Writing Option

Tests scores from between September 1, 2015 and August 31, 2016

A passing score of Reading (22), Mathematics (21), and Writing (21) is required. However, a composite score of 64 is also acceptable IF minimum scores of Reading (20), Mathematics (19), and Writing (17) are met.

Test scores after August 31, 2016

A passing score of Reading (22), Mathematics (21), and Writing (8) is required. However, a composite score of 51 is also acceptable IF minimum scores of Reading (20), Mathematics (19), and Writing (7) are met.

- ✓ Obtain test scores in the American College Test website and submit to the Pitt-Greensburg Education Department (FACH211). Scores will be verified by the Education Department and processed through the TIMS system.

PAPA (Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment) Option

A passing score of Reading (220), Mathematics (193), and Writing (220) is required. However, a composite score of 633 is also acceptable IF minimum scores of Reading (193), Mathematics (176) [OR a score of 174 if the test is taken prior to 8/31/2016] and Writing (192) are met.

- ✓ Scores will be electronically submitted directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality from the test vendor.

CORE (Core Academic Skills for Educators) Option

A passing score of Reading (156), Mathematics (142), and Writing (162) is required. However, a composite score of 460 is also acceptable IF minimum passing scores of Reading (148), Mathematics (132), and Writing (158) are met.

- ✓ Scores will be electronically submitted directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality from the test vendor.

Mix and Match Option

Passing test scores from different vendors is permissible. A passing test score must be met in each category (Reading, Writing, and Mathematics) of the Basic Skills Assessment to meet the Basic Skills testing requirements.

For example:

Mathematics – SAT score of 500 or higher

Reading – PAPA score of 220 or higher

Writing – CORE score of 162

- ✓ **Composite scores do not factor into this option.**
- ✓ **Submit official test scores from SAT and/or ACT must be submitted to the Pitt-Greensburg Education Department. Scores will be verified by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality from the test vendor.**
- ✓ **PAPA and/or CORE scores will be electronically submitted directly to the Pennsylvania Department of Education, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality from the test vendor.**

Scheduling your PAPA and/or CORE test

Freshman should review all scores immediately and determine the following:

1. Do I have a qualifying SAT or ACT score? If so, log into the appropriate site and print score report. Submit score report to the Pitt-Greensburg Education Department (Cassell Hall Room 211).
2. If I do not have all three qualifying scores, review my options.
 - ✓ Review test preparation materials for the PAPA and CORE.
 - ✓ Review test information below for the PAPA and CORE.
3. Determine a plan of action. Am I going to take the PAPA, CORE or mix and match modules from both tests?
4. Schedule tests prior to the start of your sophomore year. Keeping in mind that the basic skills assessment is based on skills taught in high school. Test taking is advised to be done prior to your sophomore year.

Other Useful Information

PAPA (Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment) testing information

Website: <http://www.pa.nesinc.com/>

<click> TEST

<click> Pre-service Academic Performance Assessment (PAPA)

Test Number	Test Title	Testing Time	Number of Questions	Cost
8001	Reading	45 minutes	36	\$37
8002	Mathematics	75 minutes	36 (formula page and online calculator will be provided)	\$44
8003	Writing	75 minutes	36 (2 sentence correction assignments and 1 extended response assignment)	\$37
PA701	All Three Modules during one setting	15 minute break between each module	See above	\$110

Additional Notes:

Fee waivers are available for qualifying students. Fee waivers can be obtained by contacting in the Education Department Office at Pitt-Greensburg. Waivers must be completed by the Financial Aid office prior to scheduling the PAPA test. If financial eligibility is met, the fee waiver can only be used ONCE for the initial test.

Testing sites/dates are listed on the www.pa.nesinc.com testing site. Additional helpful hints are also available at this web address.

PAPA On-line Sample Tests

Sample/practice tests are available at the pa.nesinc.com website. As well, Pitt-Greensburg has given you access to a PAPA Online Course and Practice Test tutorial and tests. To utilize this online course and practice test please use the following information:

<http://www.longsdalepub.com/papa>

<click> Register NEW Account

Register using the following information: School Number: 92114; School Key: papasuccess

After entering this information, the next screen to appear will require you to enter an email address and your first and last name into the spaces provided. The ID Number field is optional. Utilize your @pitt.edu email.

When you have completed the registration process, you will be issued a user name and password. Since you will be asked to enter your user name and password each time you login, it is important that you keep a copy in a safe place.

After logging into the program for the first time, we encourage you to begin with the section entitled, "Introduction to the PAPA". This section will introduce you to the course and offer suggestions on how to get the most out of the instruction and practice tests. The program is flexible, so after reading the introduction you can begin working through the material from the beginning covering all sections, or you can navigate to areas of specific need. This online course and practice tests is FREE to use. Take advantage of this opportunity.

CORE (Core Academic Skills for Educators Praxis)

Website: ets.org/praxis/pa

<click> "For Test Takers"

Select Pennsylvania from drop down menu

Test Number	Test Title	Testing Time	Number of Questions	Cost
5713	Reading	1 hour, 25 minutes	56	\$90
5723	Writing	1 hour, 40 minutes	40 questions and 2 essays	\$90
5733	Mathematics	1 hour, 25 minutes	56	\$90

Additional Notes:

Fee waivers are available for qualifying students. Fee waivers can be obtained by contacting in the Education Department Office at Pitt-Greensburg. Waivers must be completed by the Financial Aid office prior to scheduling the CORE test. If financial eligibility is met, the fee waiver can only be used ONCE for the initial test.

Testing sites/dates are listed on the www.ets.org/praxis/pa testing site. Additional valuable information/videos is available at this web site.

More detailed information, as well as an on-line calculator, to assist in determining if you have met the Basic Skills Assessment PA Department of Education requirement can be found at the following web address:

<http://www.education.pa.gov/Educators/Certification/CertTestingRequirements/Pages/default.aspx>