



The PRAXIS Series™ Update



March 2007

Welcome!

We hope you enjoy our latest issue of The *Praxis Series*™ Update. Please remember to keep others informed of *Praxis Series* changes by sharing this newsletter with your State Institutions of Higher Education.

We Heard What You Said

ETS can provide nonstandard test accommodations on some *Praxis*™ exams for test takers whose primary language is not English (PLNE). [Complete story.](#)

Praxis™ eBooks Update

Test takers can prepare for the *Praxis* tests with *Praxis*™ eBooks, a suite of digital test preparation guides that cost less than the traditional printed preparation materials. ETS has made more eBooks available to test takers for immediate download and use. [Complete story.](#)

Reminder: Refundable Registration Fees

Find out how *Praxis* test takers can receive a full refund. [Complete story.](#)

Praxis Standing Committees for Test Development

ETS is establishing *Praxis* standing committees for test development to ensure the continued high quality of all *Praxis tests*. These committees — made up of external subject matter experts — will also help ETS forge an ongoing relationship with the teaching community. [Complete story.](#)

[News Briefs](#)

- Category Data Available
- Save the Date
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We Heard What You Said: Nonstandard Test Accommodations for Test Takers Whose Primary Language Is Not English (PLNE)

Test takers whose primary language is not English (PLNE) may qualify for nonstandard test accommodations on certain *Praxis* exams in an effort to assist candidates during the testing process.

Those test takers who meet ETS requirements, as outlined in the [Certification of Documentation](#) form, will be allowed 50 percent additional testing time. These accommodations are available for some *Praxis* tests, however, this service is not available for the *Praxis* language tests.

How to Apply for Accommodations

Requests for PLNE accommodations must include a completed Certification of Documentation form available in the online [registration bulletin](#). The program has the right to request further verification, if needed, of the professional's credentials and expertise relevant to the certification of the documentation form. An embossed school seal must be affixed over the signature on the documentation form or the signature must be notarized. This form must be completed the first time a candidate applies for the accommodation. Requests must include an [Eligibility Form for Examinees Whose Primary Language Is Not English](#), also available in the registration bulletin. This form must be completed each time a candidate registers for PLNE accommodations.

Candidates are encouraged to consult the registration calendar in the bulletin for submission deadlines of registration forms and fees. All required PLNE documentation must be submitted together and received at ETS by the registration closing dates listed on the bulletin. Test takers who wish to test under PLNE accommodations may only register for a PLNE test date. PLNE is offered on select *Praxis* test dates: April 28, 2007, and June 9, 2007.

Standby registration is not available for this service. Test and/or test center changes or additions are not available for this service because space and test materials are specifically limited to accommodate the number of examinees assigned to each center and the tests for which they have registered.

For more information, visit the [Praxis website](#).

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Praxis™ eBooks Update

Praxis™ eBooks are electronic versions of the test preparation publications that are currently available in print. The eBook format allows test takers to get preparation material immediately — for instance, at the time they register for a test — and at a reduced price compared to its print counterpart.

eBook Study Guides are \$22.95 each — considerably less expensive than the corresponding printed guides — while the eBook Practice Tests are \$13.95 each. *Praxis* eBooks provide test takers with more practice opportunities. Each guide provides a combination of test preparation and practice, including:

- Key topics and exercises to guide study
- Sample multiple-choice questions and answers with detailed rationales
- Sample constructed-response questions with real responses from actual test takers
- Test-taking strategies to maximize success

In addition to making test preparation instantly accessible and less expensive, ETS is splitting *Praxis* eBook multiple-subject study guides, such as Mathematics, into single-subject guides. For example, the current Math study guide contains three tests that are being split into separate publications: Content Knowledge; Proofs, Models and Problems, Part 1; and Pedagogy. Now test takers benefit by only paying for the materials they need.

The following Practice Tests and Study Guides are either already on sale as eBooks or scheduled for release this spring. Additional titles are planned to be released later in 2007.

• Practice Tests

- PPST® Reading*
- PPST Mathematics*
- PPST Writing*
- ParaPro Assessment*
- Biology Content Knowledge
- Business Education
- English Language Content Knowledge
- Elementary Education Content Knowledge

• Study Guides

- Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge*
- ParaPro Assessment*
- Elementary Education Content Area Exercises*
- Elementary Education Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment*
- Elementary Education Content Knowledge
- PPST Reading
- PPST Writing
- PPST Math
- Mathematics Content Knowledge
- Mathematics Proofs, Models and Problems
- Mathematics Pedagogy
- Speech Language Pathology
- Educational Leadership: Administration and Supervision
- Library Media Specialist
- School Psychologist
- School Guidance and Counseling

* Currently available as an eBook

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Refundable Registration Fees

If a candidate registers for a *Praxis* test before learning the results of a prior test, and subsequently receives a passing score for that test, the candidate will automatically receive a full refund. The candidate **does not** need to submit a request for a refund.

See page 10 of the [Praxis Bulletin](#) for more details.

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Praxis™ Program Establishes Standing Committees for Test Development

The *Praxis*™ program is establishing standing committees for test development to provide greater diversity of input into the development of the *Praxis* tests and to draw on the subject-matter expertise of a greater number of practicing teachers. The committees will formalize existing relationships with external item writers and reviewers, and expand the pool of educators on whom we rely to maintain the quality of our tests.

These standing committees will help ETS forge an ongoing partnership with the teaching community, provide continuous feedback regarding tests and test specifications, and foster a sense of ownership among the committee members that will have a positive influence on test quality. Standing committees will also ensure the availability of external experts to review specific test questions flagged as a result of statistical analyses or inquiries from test takers.

The following guidelines will be followed in selecting committee members:

- Test Development committees should be made up of current, licensed K-12 teachers and teacher educators.
- The committees should reflect the regional and institutional diversity of schools in the user states as much as possible.
- Committees should be as balanced as possible in terms of gender and should reflect the ethnic diversity of the teaching community.
- The major specialties of a discipline should be represented by members of the committee.
- To ensure both continuity and gradual change in committee membership, the maximum service for each member will be three successive two-year terms. One or two members will be rotated after each two-year appointment term is completed. Newly appointed members will receive a one-year renewable appointment.

The work of the committees will vary by subject matter and the development schedule for individual test titles, but it will typically include item writing and reviewing, reviewing of new test forms, and consultation concerning specific test questions flagged for review. More specific information, including details of honoraria to be paid, will be sent with an invitation letter to nominees whose qualifications match the needs of the *Praxis* program.

If you wish to be considered for nomination, please send your contact information, the subject area and/or test title(s) for which you have relevant expertise, and a brief description of your qualifications, including educational background and current position, to: PRAXISTDCommittee@ets.org.

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News Briefs

Category Data Available

Beginning with the September 2006 test administration, ETS began providing Institutes of Higher Education with the same level of individual student category information provided to test takers. In 2007, ETS will provide aggregated score reports along with the annual score report summary.

[Read more](#) on this topic in an August 2006 *Praxis* Update article written by Drew Gitomer, Distinguished Presidential Appointee in ETS's Policy Research Division.

Save the Date

The annual ETS Teacher Quality Conference will be held on April 25-27, 2007, at the Chauncey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J. Details regarding the conference will be available soon.

ETS at Upcoming Conferences

ETS will attend and present at the following conference:

- **National Association of State Directors of Teacher Education and Certification (NASDTEC)**, June 2007, in Salt Lake City, Utah, at the Marriott City Center Hotel. Laura Goe will present "Context Matters: Examining Content in New Teachers' Engagement with Induction," on Monday, June 4.

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