

Qualified Teachers Make a Difference.



# The PRAXIS Series™ Update



July 2007

## Welcome!

We hope you enjoy our latest issue of *The Praxis Series™* Update. Please remember to keep others informed of *Praxis Series* updates and changes by sharing this newsletter with colleagues in your state's teacher preparation programs.

[Download the PDF version of \*The Praxis Series Update\*](#)

## *Praxis™* Program Update

Beginning with September 2007 test administration, test takers will only have to pay the registration fee the first time they register during the 2007-2008 testing year. An additional summary of recent program changes and enhancements is included here.

[Complete story.](#)

## Teacher Quality Client Conference Summary

At ETS's annual Teacher Quality Client Conference, held this year at the Chauncey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J., more than 50 educators and other prominent leaders from 30 states convened to discuss innovative ways to improve teacher quality. [Complete story.](#)

## We Heard What You Said

As part of its commitment to achieve 100 percent quality, ETS appointed a team of experts to identify and implement processes to reduce, and ultimately eliminate, the loss of test materials. As a result, significant improvements were seen after the January *Praxis* administration. [Complete story.](#)

## Learning What Good Teachers Do

ETS regularly publishes research on such topics as education reform, minority access to higher education and technology in the classroom. Read ETS CEO and President Kurt M. Landgraf's opinion and analysis of teacher effectiveness. [Complete story.](#)

## Top 10 Questions Asked by Teacher Candidates

How do students register for their *Praxis™* tests? Where can they find study tips and test preparation materials? These and other questions are answered in this handy "Top 10" guide. [Complete story.](#)

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## New for 2007-2008: Test Takers Will Be Required to Pay the Registration Fee ONLY ONCE During a testing Year!

Beginning with the September 2007 test date, test takers will only have to pay the registration fee the first time they register during the 2007-2008 testing year. Any subsequent registrations within the testing year will not require a registration fee, and if test takers submit a registration fee when one is not required, that fee will be automatically refunded.

### New emergency registration will replace standby testing.

Unlike standby testing, emergency registration will guarantee the test taker a seat. Test takers who must take a paper/pencil test, but have missed the regular and late registration deadline dates, will have an opportunity to use emergency registration up until the Friday one week prior to the test date. Emergency registration is only available by registering online, and the fee for this service will be \$75.

### Calendar of testing dates

<b>The Praxis Series™ Registration Deadlines</b>							
<b>Test</b>	<b>Test Date</b>	<b>Registration MUST be received by</b>	<b>Late Registration MUST be received by (with \$45 late fee)</b>	<b>Centers Outside U.S. or in U.S. Territories</b>	<b>Monday Centers in U.S. or Puerto Rico</b>	<b>Scores by Phone</b>	<b>Approximate Score Report Mailing Dates</b>
<b>All Tests Offered</b> (except Teaching Foundations and PPST®)	09/08/07	08/09/07	08/16/07	07/12/07	07/26/07	10/05/07	10/09/07
<b>All Tests Offered</b>	11/17/07	10/18/07	10/25/07	09/20/07	10/04/07	12/14/07	12/18/07
<b>All Tests Offered</b> (except Teaching Foundations)	01/12/08	12/13/07	12/20/07	11/15/07	11/29/07	02/08/08	02/12/08
<b>All Tests Offered</b> (except PPST®)	03/15/08	02/14/08	02/21/08	01/17/08	01/31/08	04/11/08	04/15/08

<b>All Tests Offered</b> (except Teaching Foundations)	04/26/08	03/27/08	04/03/08	02/28/08	03/13/08	05/23/08	05/27/08
<b>All Tests Offered</b> (except PPST®)	06/14/08	05/15/08	05/22/08	04/17/08	05/01/08	07/11/08	07/15/08
<b>All Tests Offered</b>	07/26/08	06/26/08	07/03/08	05/29/08	05/29/08	08/22/08	08/26/08

[Complete 2007-2008 Program update](#)

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### 2007 ETS Teacher Quality Client Conference

#### ETS Conference Highlights Innovative Ways to Improve Teacher Quality and Preparation

On April 25-27, 2007, ETS held its annual Teacher Quality Client Conference at the Chauncey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J. The theme of this year's conference was "Innovating for Change."

Attendees from 30 states focused on teacher quality, research and strategies that encourage innovation, and ways to help states secure qualified teachers through effective certification and licensure.

The conference began with a tour of the Ewing, N.J., facilities that handle customer service, packing, and shipping and receiving duties. The remainder of the conference explored a variety of topics impacting teacher quality and preparation, including:

- Updates on the No Child Left Behind Act
- Innovative initiatives in teacher education
- Sessions on special education and the highly qualified teacher
- ETS's *America's Perfect Storm* [research](#)
- Updates on Historically Black Colleges and Universities, the NTF, the NEAA and the National Comprehensive Center for Teacher Quality
- Panel discussions with several state representatives
- Remarks from 2006 National Teacher of the Year, Kim Oliver
- *Praxis*™ program updates
- And much more

#### Improving Teacher Quality, Preparation

Attendees also focused on a forthcoming ETS research report on teacher preparation. Drew Gitomer, Distinguished ETS Presidential Appointee, discussed preliminary findings from a study ETS expects to release in June, *The Academic Quality of Teachers — Have Policy Changes Had an Impact?* When the study is released, you may download it from [www.ets.org](http://www.ets.org).

The study included a database of 153,000 teaching candidates from 21 states, and sought to determine the effect policy changes — involving accreditation, No Child Left Behind legislation, alternate teaching routes and other issues — have had on teacher quality.

At the conference, attendees also had the chance to network with colleagues from other states and to share their innovative ideas, research, stories and strategies for improving teacher quality.

To learn more about the 2007 ETS Teacher Quality Client Conference, and to download presentations from the conference, visit [www.ets.org/TQ2007](http://www.ets.org/TQ2007).

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## We Heard What You Said

In an effort to improve the administration of all ETS assessments, ETS has recommitted its efforts to achieving "100 percent quality" to ensure a flawless testing experience. Stephen Pote, Chief Quality Officer at ETS, has an extensive background and experience in driving successful quality and process initiatives.

Pote is leading the 100 Percent Quality Initiative — an ongoing ETS commitment to meet and exceed stakeholders' expectations in the area of quality. These include accuracy, timeliness, completeness and validity of test design, delivery, scoring and reporting. ETS President and CEO Kurt Landgraf made improving the *Praxis* program Pote's top priority.

"ETS is responding to the need for quality — and taking action," said Pote. "Anything less than 100 percent means that one or more people are not getting the quality results they expect and deserve."

An end-to-end review of the *Praxis* program was performed in early 2006. This helped identify specific areas for improvement in all aspects of development and execution. Based on customer comments and feedback, ETS is working hard to flawlessly execute in the following areas:

- test registration
- customer service
- test-taker advocacy
- test administration
- score reporting and accuracy, completeness, timeliness and content validity
- responsiveness to requests
- increased communication
- understanding and partnering with clients to respond to evolving customer and client needs to improve pass rates, decrease teacher shortages, offer tests for emerging new licensure areas and meet state and federal standards and requirements

"We aren't perfect, but it doesn't mean we shouldn't aspire to be. We have spent the past 18 months improving our web service, customer contact center interaction and other services. Recently implemented process improvements have helped to drastically reduce make-ups within the *Praxis* program. Significant improvements are visible in recent *Praxis* administrations," said Pote.

"Educational testing is an industry where millions of test takers' lives are affected not only by their performance, but also by those who administer the test," said Pote. "As long as there remains one teacher candidate or test taker whose life may be impacted by a test administration error, it is unacceptable for us to be satisfied with maintaining the status quo. We must strive for perfection."

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### Top 10 Questions Asked by Teacher Candidates

Students and teacher candidates often have many of the same questions about taking the *Praxis*™ tests. That's why ETS developed the publication [Top 10 Questions Asked by Praxis Candidates](#), which includes a wealth of links and resources to help candidates with online registration, test preparation, score verification and more.

ETS encourages institutions of higher education to include the link to this PDF document on their websites so that teacher candidates can easily find this information. You are also free to print and distribute copies of this flyer to give to your teacher candidates.

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