



The PRAXIS Series™ e-Newsletter



April 2008

Welcome!

We hope you enjoy the latest issue of *The Praxis Series*™ e-Newsletter. Please share this newsletter with your colleagues, including individuals at your state colleges and universities so they can stay informed of *Praxis Series* updates and changes.

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

Praxis™ Program Update

This update summarizes changes and enhancements to *The Praxis Series* assessments. Current developments include the ongoing *Praxis* test regeneration process, a new website for the National Advisory Committees, using ScoreLink to receive your *Praxis* scores, and opportunities to join the ETS Online Scoring Network. [Read the summary.](#)

Teacher Candidate Support

Helping students prepare for *The Praxis Series* assessments is a step toward ensuring success on their path to teacher licensure. That's why ETS is committed to supporting faculty and test takers with easily accessible, targeted test preparation materials. [Find out what's available.](#)

Teacher Quality Research

Research shows that teacher quality is the single most important factor in a student's academic performance. ETS supports teacher effectiveness through assessments, research and training. Recent efforts include a new Center for the Study of Teacher Assessment and a research report on improvements in the teacher pool. [Learn more.](#)

ETS hosts the 2008 *Praxis* Client Conference

Join us as we explore issues pertinent to your *Praxis* Program at this year's *Praxis* Client Conference. The Conference will be held at the Chauncey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J., from April 29-May 2. [Get the details.](#)

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Praxis™ Program Update

Praxis Test Regeneration: An Update

In our [December 2007 issue](#), we provided background information on the test regeneration process for *The Praxis Series*. During this five-year process, ETS is examining *Praxis* tests as they come up for review and determining what, if any, updates are needed. This examination helps us produce the most current, valid and reliable tests possible for our clients and teacher candidates.

As promised, below is an update on what your state can expect as we approach the 2008-2009 testing cycle.

Revised Tests Requiring a Standard-setting Study

As part of the regeneration process, we are launching the following tests with significant changes:

- All World Language tests
- School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA)
- Business Education
- Speech Communication
- Marketing Education
- Educational Leadership: Administration and Supervision

Changes to these tests require a new standard-setting study. Your Client Relations Director will work closely with you to provide opportunities to review the tests and plan for the standard-setting studies.

To help determine how ETS can provide states with the easiest process to transition to these tests, we are examining use of a regional standard-setting study for the SLLA test. Our SLLA and World Language tests will be discussed at this year's [Praxis Client Conference](#) on April 29-May 2 at ETS in Princeton, N.J.

Revised Tests Not Requiring a Standard-setting Study

There are also a number of tests that were reviewed and revised but will not require a new standard-setting study. These test titles include:

- Family and Consumer Science
- School Psychologist
- Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment
- Elementary Education: Content Knowledge
- English Language Literature and Composition: Content Knowledge

Praxis Client Relations Directors will provide clients with the necessary information to transition smoothly from one test to the other with minimum effort.

We expect that tests in these 2 categories will be available for review later this year. Complete standard-setting studies, where necessary, will be available in time for the first administration of the new tests for the 2009-2010 testing year. ETS will not ask states to transition their current tests until they have conducted the proper reviews and studies and have taken the appropriate steps to make these tests operational.

For more information on the transition process, refer to December's newsletter story, [Test Regeneration: A Primer](#), and join us at the [April conference](#).

Tests Coming Up for Review

We will begin the regeneration process for the following tests in 2008:

- Agriculture
- Behavioral Sciences
- Driver Education
- Economics
- Fundamental Subjects
- Geography
- Government and Political Science
- School Superintendent
- Social Studies (secondary)
- Middle School Social Studies
- Technology Education
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- World History

We urge our clients to be part of this process by nominating candidates to the National Advisory Committees that help create these tests or to the Test Development Committees that assist drafting test specifications and questions after the National Advisory Committees have done their work. For more information and to nominate individuals to participate, visit the [Praxis National Advisory Committee and Test Development Standing Committee recruitment website](#).

We understand the importance and desire to reduce testing requirements for licensure when possible and to provide a more cost-effective program for candidates. To that end, we're examining how we can combine constructed-response-only tests with multiple-choice questions to reduce testing requirements to one test instead of two. This combined approach will save candidates' time and money and is a stronger approach for making high-stakes licensure decisions.

A Client Relations Director will call you in the near future to answer any questions you may have. During the [Praxis Client Conference](#), we will discuss any effects on your state's testing program. Please plan to attend the Conference and offer your input on how we can best meet your state's licensure requirements and better serve your state's teaching candidates.

New Website for the National Advisory Committees (NACs)

The [Praxis National Advisory Committee and Test Development Standing Committee recruitment website](#) is now available. This site allows us to collect nominee contact and biographical information for the *Praxis* National Advisory Committees (NACs).

Once you recruit nominees for a given test, you can refer them directly to this website. Please be sure to focus on practicing teachers when selecting nominees. The NACs must be comprised primarily of practicing teachers to ensure that we have appropriate evidence of validity for the *Praxis* tests.

Nominees willing to work with us on the *Praxis* tests will need to submit a completed, online [registration form](#). Once the form is submitted, nominees will receive a confirmation e-mail.

Praxis test developers will review all nominees' qualifications for the requisite experience and background. Committee members will be selected to ensure equal representation across gender, ethnicity, location and grade level.

Nominees selected to serve will receive an invitation with details regarding meeting logistics, honoraria and travel arrangements. Nominees not selected will be contacted and their names kept on file for consideration for other opportunities to work with us as item writers or reviewers, as well as for future NACs.

A tentative list of subject areas to be reviewed in 2008 is posted on the website. You can refer nominees to the website at any time to register for these areas.

If you have any questions, please contact [Florence Cucchi](#) at **1-609-683-2147** or [Chris Karatka](#) at **1-609-683-2005**.

How Do You Receive Your *Praxis* Scores?

Are you receiving your scores via ScoreLink yet? ScoreLink is our fastest, most convenient reporting method for institutions. ScoreLink allows recipients to download score data electronically via the Internet. Its straight-text layout makes the file compatible with many institution database programs.

ScoreLink notifies the score recipient with a message to retrieve the file from a secure Internet server. Files remain available for 14 days following transmission. The message is sent the same day all other formats are mailed, allowing instant access to the file and saving several mailing days. For technical information, visit our [Internet Delivery of Scores Overview](#).

Other means of score delivery include:

- **CD ROM** — Contains a data file with the same straight-text file and layout as ScoreLink
- **Individual paper report** — Contains test scores from the current administration, the highest score for each test taken by the examinee in the past 10 years, and pass/not pass status based on the recipient's state
- **Pressure sensitive labels** — Contains only the highest earned score and a letter 'P' or 'N' (indicating passed/not passed status) for each test reported based on the recipient's state; current scores are not shown unless they are the highest scores the examinee has earned

Each option includes a score roster listing each test taker and the score(s) contained in the mailing. Score reports are sent to states, agencies and institutions of higher education approximately four weeks after each national administration, as well as weekly throughout the year for computer-based tests. The first reporting option is free. Each additional score reporting option requires a \$400 charge.

For more information, contact your state client relations director. You can also contact Karen Palmeri by [e-mail](#) or phone **1-609-683-2296**.

ETS Seeks Qualified Teachers to Score *The Praxis Series Assessments*

Throughout the year, ETS enlists teachers and education professors to join the ETS Online Scoring Network (OSN). Qualified individuals evaluate open-ended responses for *The Praxis Series Assessments*. Scoring sessions occur 7 times per year. Approved raters score exams from home on their computer through OSN.

Subjects Currently Recruiting:

- Math Pedagogy
- Middle School Math
- Middle School Science
- Middle School Social Studies
- Education of Young Children
- Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing

Interested individuals can go to the [Scoring Opportunities](#) section of our website to learn more or to apply. For additional information, [e-mail an ETS Advisor](#).

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Teacher Candidate Support

Praxis™ Test Preparation Materials Now Compliant with the Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA)

ETS is pleased to present newly formatted test preparation materials for individuals with visual impairments. Once only available as free, downloadable PDFs, our *Praxis* Tests at a Glance (TAAGs) series can now also be used with screen reader software that voices on-screen text. These materials, designed on the architecture of ETS.org, have passed ADA accessibility testing.

Below is the list of currently available, ADA-compliant titles. More titles will be available soon. PDF versions are still available through a link on our website.

Test Code	Test Name
0014	Elementary Education: Content Knowledge
0049	Middle School English Language Arts
0069	Middle School Mathematics
0089	Middle School Social Studies
0091	Physical Education: Content Knowledge
0300	Reading Specialist
0330	Speech-Language Pathology
0351	Special Education: Knowledge-Based Core Principles
0353	Education of Exceptional Students Core: Content Knowledge
0511	Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge
0522	Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades K-6
0524	Principles of Learning and Teaching: Grades 7-12
0710	Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading
0720	Pre-Professional Skills Test: Writing
5710	Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test: Reading
5720	Computerized Pre-Professional Skills Test: Writing

New Praxis Candidate Support

Preparation is the key to success. ETS is committed to meeting your teacher candidate's needs by offering a variety of free and low-cost *Praxis Series* candidate support, ranging from eBooks to Workshops.

Praxis I® Study Plan Development Webinars

Since February, ETS has conducted a series of free, 45-minute webinars on developing a study plan for the *Praxis I*. The sessions have been heavily attended with many excellent questions from candidates and faculty. The spring webinars are fully booked and will continue until May. Check the [test prep section](#) of our website frequently for openings and new sessions. Additional webinars will begin in the fall.

Praxis eBooks Allow Candidates to Prepare Anytime, Anywhere

We recently expanded the number of eBooks available to include 14 study guides and 8 practice tests, including some of the most popular test titles as shown below. See the [ETS store](#) for a complete list of eBooks.

Test Title	Test Code	Study Guide	Practice Test
<i>Praxis I</i> : Reading	5710 and 0710	Yes	Yes
<i>Praxis I</i> : Writing	0710 and 0720	Yes	Yes
<i>Praxis I</i> : Mathematics	0730	Yes	
School Guidance and Counseling	0420	Yes	
School Psychologist	0400	Yes	
Speech-Language Pathology	0330	Yes	
Biology Content Knowledge	0231, 0232, 0235		Yes
Business Education	0100		Yes
Educational Leadership: Administration and Supervision	0410	Yes	
Elementary Education Content Area Exercises	0012	Yes	
Elementary Education Content Knowledge	0014	Yes	Yes
Elementary Education Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment	0011 and 0016	Yes	
English Language, Literature and Composition Content Knowledge	0041		Yes
Fundamental Subjects Content Knowledge	0511	Yes	
Mathematics: Content Knowledge	0061	Yes	
Library Media Specialist	0310	Yes	
Mathematics: Pedagogy	0065	Yes	
ParaPro Assessment	0755 and 1755	Yes	Yes

Praxis Workshops Prepare Your Teacher Candidates for Success

ETS recently updated and added workshops to the *Praxis* Workshop series. As a result of the overwhelming request for a workshop specifically designed for *Praxis I*, we added, "Preparing for *Praxis I*: What You Need to Know," as a full-day workshop.

To learn more about the workshops, [download a brochure](#), [e-mail Praxis Workshops](#) or call **1-866-925-4162**.

The Workshop series is available for both faculty and teacher candidates.

Teacher Candidate Workshops

- **NEW! Preparing for *Praxis I*: What You Need to Know** — This full-day workshop is designed to provide candidates with an overview of the *Praxis I* assessment, including what the test measures, how it is structured, how to use the free information from the *Praxis* website to create an individualized study plan, as well as strategies for combating test anxiety and taking the test. The 6-hour workshop includes 3 one-hour segments to discuss the Mathematics, Reading and Writing sections.
- **Candidate Awareness for *Praxis II***® — This full-day workshop is designed for *Praxis II* licensure candidates. Participants will work with the tools provided by ETS for test familiarization and preparation. They will analyze test questions and discuss strategies for success using *The Praxis Series* "Smart Tips."

Faculty Workshops

- **Faculty Orientation Workshop** — As a prerequisite for other modules, this half-day workshop presents a thorough introduction to the *Praxis II* tests. Participants will explore factors contributing to candidate success and resources available to both faculty and students.
- **Faculty Awareness Workshop** — This half-day workshop delves into the nature and content of the *Praxis II* tests. Participants will review critical information about the tests as well as methods for using the information to better prepare their teacher candidates.
- **Faculty Data Analysis Workshop** — This half-day workshop explores the content and purpose of *Praxis II* score reports and how to use the reports to advance curricula development and advise students.
- **NEW! How Written Responses Are Scored** — This full-day workshop covers how ETS approaches the

scoring of the *Praxis I* Writing essay prompt, as well as the scoring of constructed-response questions on the *Praxis II* tests.

New *Top 10* Questions Available

What are the most pressing questions *Praxis* candidates have? Find out in ETS's [easy-to-read flyer](#), where we answer the top 10 questions we receive over the phone and online. We encourage Departments of Education and Institutions of Higher Education to share this flyer with their teacher candidates.

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Teacher Quality Research

New Teacher Center Advances the Study of Teacher Assessments

As a national leader in teacher assessment efforts that span licensure, certification, induction and professional development, ETS has a long-standing involvement and commitment to supporting the development of effective teachers. With the assessment of teachers as a central component of examining and making decisions about the performance of the educational system, ETS established the Center for the Study of Teacher Assessment (CSTA).

The CSTA has 3 principal goals:

- Conduct a nationally-recognized research program addressing issues related to teaching and the assessment of teachers. In addition to research conducted by CSTA staff, the Center will also help coordinate teacher assessment-related research being carried out throughout ETS.
- Ensure that ETS program staff and clients have access to the most current research available in order to support decisions related to teacher assessment. CSTA staff regularly present emerging research findings to internal staff and clients through research-based consultation and conferences.
- Inform educators and policymakers about issues related to teacher assessment through a national outreach effort. Through policy briefs, presentations and conferences convened at ETS, CSTA will provide forums for the communication and sharing of research and policy concerning teacher assessment. Examples of ETS-sponsored conferences include the recent ETS Invitational Conference on Measurement Challenges to the Assessment of Teacher Quality, the Second Annual HBCU Assessment Development Invitational and the continuing Achievement Gap Conference series.

Located in the Policy Evaluation and Research Center (PERC) of ETS, the CSTA is led by Drew Gitomer, Distinguished Researcher and Senior Director of the Center and Katherine Bassett, Director of Educator Relations and Director of the Center.

[Teacher Quality in a Changing Policy Landscape: Improvements in the Teacher Pool](#)

With roots extending back to the early 20th century, concern about the quality of America's teaching force is nothing new. Growing evidence over the last 25 years supports a link between teacher quality and student achievement.

As a result, the last decade brought an explosion of policy activity aimed at improving teacher quality. Policies established at the federal, state, local and institutional levels focus on ensuring that teachers are qualified to teach the subject matter at hand and that institutions and agencies preparing and certifying these teachers are held accountable for their programs.

In a new ETS Policy Information Center report titled [Teacher Quality in a Changing Policy Landscape: Improvements in the Teacher Pool](#), ETS researcher Drew Gitomer examines the relationship between improvements in the academic quality of America's teaching force and the recent unprecedented policy focus on improving teacher quality. Gitomer revisits an earlier study of teacher quality to compare the academic quality of prospective teachers in a recent cohort to that of an earlier cohort.

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2008 Praxis™ Client Conference

Praxis Client Conference is Just Days Away!

In appreciation of the role you play in building quality teachers, ETS is pleased to host the [2008 Praxis™ Client Conference](#) at the Chauncey Conference Center on April 29 - May 2. We will explore the issues you and your colleagues face in promoting teaching excellence. We will also share ideas, research, stories and strategies for addressing teacher quality.

Conference highlights include:

- Update on *The Praxis Series*™ and how it will affect your state's licensure program
- Information on the *Praxis* test regeneration process
- Improving teacher performance on *Praxis* through test preparation and the *Praxis* website

This year, we added an extra day!

As a result of the positive response from clients who participated in last year's operations tour, the Conference will begin a day earlier to give more attendees the opportunity to tour the Ewing Operations Facility. Tours will take place on Wednesday, April 30.

[View the Conference agenda.](#)

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