



The PRAXIS Series™ e-Newsletter



August 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

The *Praxis Update* summarizes changes and enhancements to *The Praxis Series* assessments. Current developments include the upcoming test administration dates, new service for score reports, Title II fee elimination and access to state pages. [Read the summary.](#)

Test Regeneration Update

The *Praxis* test transition process is currently underway. Our goal is to provide the most current and best possible assessments. As always, your feedback is essential to the advancement of this process. [Find out what's new.](#)

ETS Research on Student Achievement

The ETS report on student achievement provides a broad, in-depth view of student performance from early childhood to high school. The report includes discussions about the effects of early childhood development and other factors in determining students' performance levels. [Learn more.](#)

ETS hosts the 2009 *Praxis* Client Conference

Join us as we explore issues regarding your *Praxis* Program at our next *Praxis* Client Conference. The Conference will be held at the Chauncey Conference Center in Princeton, N.J., from April 28-May 1. [Get the details.](#)

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Praxis™ Program Update

2008 – 2009 Program Registration Dates

<i>The Praxis Series™ Registration Deadlines</i>							
Test Date	Registration MUST be received by	Late Registration MUST be received by (w/\$45 late fee)	Emergency Registration MUST be completed online by (w/\$75 fee)	Centers Outside U.S. or in U.S. Territories	Monday Testing Centers in U.S. or Puerto Rico	Scores by Phone	Approximate Score Report Mailing Dates
09/13/08	08/14/08	08/21/08	09/05/08	07/17/08	07/31/08	10/10/08	10/14/08
11/15/08	10/16/08	10/23/08	11/07/08	09/18/08	10/02/08	12/12/08	12/16/08
01/10/09	12/11/08	12/18/08	01/02/09	11/13/08	11/27/08	02/06/09	02/10/09
03/14/09	02/12/09	02/19/09	03/06/09	01/15/09	01/29/09	04/10/09	04/14/09
04/25/09	03/26/09	04/02/09	04/17/09	02/26/09	03/12/09	05/22/09	05/26/09
06/13/09	05/14/09	05/21/09	06/05/09	04/16/09	04/30/09	07/10/09	07/14/09
07/25/09	06/25/09	07/02/09	07/17/09	05/28/09	06/11/09	08/21/09	08/25/09

Praxis Tests with Specific Administrations

Below are the titles for the 2008 – 2009 testing year that will be administered only on specific test dates allowing for increased volume per administration. This will allow for certain analyses to be performed sooner in the process and also more frequently for these tests.

Praxis Subject Assessments with 4 Administrations

The tests listed below will be administered four times per testing year on the dates specified 9/13/08 – 1/10/09 – 4/25/09 – 7/25/09

- 0700-Agriculture
- 0231-Biology: Content Knowledge Part 1
- 0241-Chemistry: Content Knowledge
- 0070-Chemistry, Physics and General Science
- 0910-Economics
- 0271-Education of Deaf and Hard of Hearing Students
- 0382-Education of Exceptional Students: Learning Disabilities
- 0173-French: Content Knowledge
- 0171-French: Productive Language Skills
- 0920-Geography
- 0930-Government/Political Science
- 0561-Marketing Education*
- 0481-Physical Science: Content Knowledge
- 0483-Physical Science: Pedagogy
- 0261-Physics: Content Knowledge
- 0194-Spanish: Pedagogy
- 0220-Speech Communication
- 0371-Special Education: Teaching Students with Behavioral Disorders/Emotional Disturbances
- 0381-Special Education: Teaching Students with Learning Disabilities
- 0085-Social Studies: Interpretation and Analysis

0280-Teaching Students with Visual Impairments

0640-Theatre

0890-Vocational General Knowledge

* Marketing Education will not be administered in September

Praxis Subject Assessments with 3 Administrations

The tests listed below will be administered three times per testing year on the dates specified

11/15/08 – 3/14/09 – 6/13/09

0900-Agriculture (CA)

0780-Agriculture (PA)

0242-Chemistry: Content Essays

0800-Communication

0810-Cooperative Education

0867-Driver Education

0830-Environmental Education

0840-Foreign Language Pedagogy

0357-Gifted Education

0067-General Mathematics

0181-German: Content Knowledge

0182-German: Productive Language Skills

0023-Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

0600-Latin

0262-Physics: Content Essays

0390-Psychology

0202-Reading Across the Curriculum: Secondary

0860-Safety/Driver Education

0211-School Social Worker: Content Knowledge

0950-Sociology

0951-Social Sciences: Content Knowledge

0940-World and U.S. History

New Service: Scores by Web!

Beginning with the September 2008 test administration, candidates who registered online can now receive their score report online. Candidate score reports will be accessible on the same day that paper score reports are mailed. Candidates will be able to review their scores online for 30 days from the date posted. Score reports can be downloaded and printed by the candidate. This new service will not change the way designated institutions receive score reports. With this new service, candidates will not receive their scores by mail. This service is only available for candidates who register using the *Praxis* online registration system.

Title II Fee Elimination

ETS is pleased to announce the elimination of fees for Title II basic services beginning with the 2007 – 2008 cohorts. In the past, ETS charged a flat rate of \$500 per Institution of Higher Education (IHE) with 10 or more completers and \$250 for 9 or less completers. These free basic services include:

- Maintaining website for IHEs to list program completers and perform match edits
- Running weekly extract/match programs to match completers to *Praxis* scores
- Recalculating and re-reporting during resolution period if an ETS error is found
- Bulk uploading of one cohort file (100+ cohort), with error-free formatting

Additionally, two of each of the following reports will be provided free to each IHE who submits a cohort:

- Current Regular draft report in early February
- Current Regular final report in early April
- Current Alternate final report in late April
- Follow up Regular and Alternate final report in January
- Follow up Regular and Alternate state quartile report in late May
- Regular and Alternate State Quartile report in mid May

Additional charges will apply for items that go beyond the basic Title II services:

- Additional copies of previously provided reports: \$100 per report
- Services performed after published deadline (where possible): \$200 each
- Bulk upload of program completers with formatting changes necessary: \$150 per attempt
- Recalculation and re-reporting during resolution period: \$1,500 per IHE

Our goal is to assist you in eliminating the need for any of the above four services so that Title II can remain free to all institutes of higher education who need to report. A few tips to help avoid additional service charges are:

- IHEs should keep their contact information up to date on the Title II website. If a report is undeliverable to both school contacts because they failed to provide updated information, additional reports will cost \$100 each.
- Get all information in on time. A fee of \$200 will be assessed for any service provided after a deadline for which ETS incurs costs.
- Check that formatting is proper for the bulk upload spreadsheets. Additional attempts at uploading due to formatting errors will cost \$150 each.
- Check cohort matches during the resolution period and look at the scores being reported for each cohort. Failure to take this step often results in requests to recalculate and re-report during the resolution period, which costs \$1,500.

State Page URLs Are Ready

As announced at the 2008 *Praxis* client conference, states may now use a simplified redirect URL to promote their state page on the *Praxis* website. With a few exceptions, the new URLs will follow the U.S. Postal Service two letter state naming convention. For example: Pennsylvania's new URL would be: www.ets.org/praxis/pa.

Complete List of URLs:

Alabama	www.ets.org/praxis/al
Alaska	www.ets.org/praxis/ak
Arkansas	www.ets.org/praxis/ar
California	www.ets.org/praxis/ca
Colorado	www.ets.org/praxis/co
Connecticut	www.ets.org/praxis/ct
Delaware	www.ets.org/praxis/de
District of Columbia	www.ets.org/praxis/dc
Georgia	www.ets.org/praxis/ga
Guam	www.ets.org/praxis/qu
Hawaii	www.ets.org/praxis/hi
Idaho	www.ets.org/praxis/idaho
Indiana	www.ets.org/praxis/in
Iowa	www.ets.org/praxis/ia
Kansas	www.ets.org/praxis/ks
Kentucky	www.ets.org/praxis/ky
Louisiana	www.ets.org/praxis/la
Maine	www.ets.org/praxis/me
Maryland	www.ets.org/praxis/md
Minnesota	www.ets.org/praxis/mn
Mississippi	www.ets.org/praxis/ms
Missouri	www.ets.org/praxis/mo
Montana	www.ets.org/praxis/mt
Nebraska	www.ets.org/praxis/ne
Nevada	www.ets.org/praxis/nv
New Hampshire	www.ets.org/praxis/nh
New Jersey	www.ets.org/praxis/nj
New Mexico	www.ets.org/praxis/nm
New York	www.ets.org/praxis/ny
North Carolina	www.ets.org/praxis/nc
North Dakota	www.ets.org/praxis/nd
Ohio	www.ets.org/praxis/oh

Oklahoma	www.ets.org/praxis/ok
Oregon	www.ets.org/praxis/or
Pennsylvania	www.ets.org/praxis/pa
Rhode Island	www.ets.org/praxis/ri
South Carolina	www.ets.org/praxis/sc
South Dakota	www.ets.org/praxis/sd
Tennessee	www.ets.org/praxis/tn
Texas	www.ets.org/praxis/tx
Utah	www.ets.org/praxis/ut
Vermont	www.ets.org/praxis/vt
Virginia	www.ets.org/praxis/va
Virgin Islands	www.ets.org/praxis/vi
Washington	www.ets.org/praxis/wa
West Virginia	www.ets.org/praxis/wy
Wisconsin	www.ets.org/praxis/wi
Wyoming	www.ets.org/praxis/wy
ASHA	www.ets.org/praxis/asha
DODEA	www.ets.org/praxis/dodea
NASP	www.ets.org/praxis/nasp

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Test Regeneration Update

Praxis™ Test Transition Process

ETS is committed to updating *The Praxis Series*™ assessments in an efficient and effective manner. Your continued input and suggestions have been beneficial in advancing the test transition process.

Several sessions at the 2008 *Praxis* Client Conference were devoted to helping you better understand the status of these assessments and to gather feedback surrounding their adoption and use. Since then, we have been analyzed and discussed feedback. We also collected additional information from state and agency clients to better understand and meet each state's needs.

We are currently analyzing the additional feedback received from state clients on education for the World Language tests as well as possible use of multi-state standard-setting studies to facilitate the transition to the new School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA.) We look forward to sharing the results of this feedback with you shortly.

Some tests currently reporting scores on the older version of the score scale (250 – 990) will move to the regular *Praxis* score scale (100 – 200). By now, Client Relations Directors should have contacted states using these tests to provide the updated scores based on the new scale effective in the 2008 – 2009 testing year. These tests will also have a new code number. Only states using one or more of the following three tests would have received this information:

- Family Consumer Science (0120) will have new scale and new test code (0121)
- Marketing Education (0560) will have new scale and new test code (0561)
- School Psychologist (0400) will have new scale and new test code (0401)

As a reminder, some tests close to completing the transition process will require standard-setting studies. The tests listed below will be administered for the first time in the 2009 – 2010 testing year:

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

Your Client Relations Director will be working closely with you over the next year to ensure a smooth transition to these new tests. As always, please let them know should you have any additional questions or concerns about the test regeneration efforts.

School Leadership Licensure Assessment (SLLA)

Progress on the development of the new SLLA continues on schedule. We recently completed a field test of new constructed-response questions for use in the test preparation materials and in new test.

Each state client was asked to provide contact information for their state educational leader preparation programs. ETS contacted over 144 programs in 17 user states, inviting them to participate in the field test. We received responses from 45 programs and 42 of them volunteered to participate. Thirty-four institutions were able to accommodate the field test, which required that they schedule a 90-minute testing session conducted between April 15 and May 17.

We are most grateful to our state clients, higher education faculty and student participants who worked on this project to help ensure that the new questions were clearly written and elicited the expected range of responses.

Upcoming Tests Scheduled for Transition

Test transition is an ongoing process, and we are continuing our efforts to bring you the most current and best possible assessments. To that end, tests being reviewed by the National Advisory Committees (NAC) during this calendar year include the following:

- Agriculture
- Behavioral Sciences
- Driver Education
- Economics
- Fundamental Subjects (0511)
- Geography
- Government and Political Science
- Social Studies (secondary)
- Middle School Social Studies
- Technology Education
- Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages
- World History

As the work of our National Advisory Committees progresses, we will continue to communicate any expected changes and potential schedules for when those tests will be available for review and ultimately administered to your candidates.

ETS works diligently to ensure that the information we present to you is the most accurate, up-to-date information possible. However, it is important to realize that test transition is a dynamic process that incorporates client feedback, current trends and research in the ever-changing educational landscape.

We urge you to participate in test transition activities to ensure we receive the necessary feedback about this process, and to nominate candidates to the National Advisory Committees developing test specifications and questions.

For more information and to nominate individuals to participate, visit the [Praxis National Advisory Committee and Test Development Standing Committee](#) recruitment website.

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ETS Research on Student Achievement

Look Through Many Windows to Understand the Achievement Gap

ETS recently released a new research report, [*Windows on Achievement and Inequality*](#) by Paul Barton and Richard Coley of the ETS Policy Information Center. The report examines data that can help policymakers create and implement informed policies and practices to close achievement gaps.

Factors include early childhood vocabulary and cognitive development, socioeconomic and ethnic background, expanding our understanding of student achievement and making sense of international assessments to better understand how the United States compares with other developed nations.

"While reams of achievement data may be collected and stored in computer databases, a fairly small number of useful measures trickle from the data files and make their way into the information stream available to policymakers," says Coley, Director of the ETS Policy Information Center.

"We, as a country, need to expand what is currently a very limited view of student performance," adds Barton, Senior Associate, ETS's Policy Information Center. "We are trying to provide a panoramic view of the condition of achievement and inequality from the starting line at birth through the finish line in high school."

Learn more by [downloading the report](#).

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2009 *Praxis*™ Client Conference

Hold the Date! 2009 *Praxis* Client Conference

April 28 – May 1, 2009

Chauncey Conference Center
Princeton, N.J. 08541

ETS appreciates the role you play in building quality teachers and is pleased to host the 2009 *Praxis* Client Conference. At the conference, we will explore the issues you and your colleagues face in promoting teaching excellence and will share ideas, research, stories and strategies for addressing teacher quality.

Please be sure to reserve Tuesday, April 28 to Friday, May 1, 2009 on your calendar for this important event. A formal invitation with travel details will be sent in early 2009.

We want to make ETS's 2009 *Praxis* Client Conference the most informative and exciting one yet — and we hope to see you there!

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