Texas State Teacher Exams: Things You Need to Know
To be a certified teacher in Texas, you must pass at least two state exams, called **TExES** *(Texas Examinations of Educator Standards)*

1. Content Exam

2. Pedagogy & Professional Responsibilities (PPR) Exam
The TExES are the state teacher certification exams designed to assess what a first-time certified teacher should know and be able to do.
Which Exams Do I Take?

Required exams are indicated on degree plan.

Note: All students take EC-12 PPR regardless of what is on degree plan. The state changed this requirement in 2011.
Bilingual Generalists must take a Spanish proficiency exam in addition to content and PPR exams, called the BTLPT.

Special Education certification students must take EC-12 PPR exam + 2 content exams: EC-12 SPED and EC-6 Generalist.

You may not take additional exams to add certifications such as ESL, SPED, Bilingual, or GT until your initial certification is earned.
Test your knowledge of **WHAT you will teach** (content area, subject-specific areas)

Content area courses and methods courses prepare you for your content exam(s).

**Examples of content exams:**
- EC-6 Generalist
- EC-12 Special Education
- 4-8 Mathematics
- 8-12 Social Studies
PEDAGOGY = the study of being a teacher or the process of teaching. The term generally refers to strategies of instruction, or a style of instruction.

- The PPR tests **HOW you teach; how you handle situations in the classroom; how you apply what you know about education law and principles.**

- All courses on your degree plan, in particular EDUC 4130 and TCED 4010, prepare you for the PPR exam.
1. **By computer**
   - Computer-Administered Test (CAT)
   - Most initial certification exams are available as CATs (8-12 SST and 8-12 ELAR not available as CATs until fall 2012).
   - Given frequently at several area locations
   - Must wait 60 days to retake the same CAT.
   - Test scores are available 1-4 days after taking test.

2. **With paper and pencil**
   - Paper-Based Test (PBT)
   - Almost all exams are available as PBTs.
   - Administered 2-3 times each academic year.
   - No wait period between PBT and next PBT or between PBT and CAT.
   - Test scores are available 4 weeks after taking test.
Where do I Take the TExES?

- The TExES are administered at official test centers.
- There are many test center locations in the greater Houston area.
- Test center locations are specified in the online registration process.
You become eligible to register for TExES when you are admitted to Teacher Education Program (TEP).

Online registration is preferred.

Detailed instructions are available online at Educational Testing Service (ETS) Web site: www.texas.ets.org

Cost: $120 each test
First, go to TEA Web site: www.tea.state.tx.us

- Create an account with your own user ID and password, if you haven’t done so already.
- View your profile; update it, if necessary.
- Locate your TEA ID number and write it down.
Next, go to the ETS Web site, at www.texes.ets.org.

- Click *New User* button.
- Create an account with your own user ID and password.
- Enter your TEA ID number and other information.
- Continue through screens to register.
What Are TExES Like?

- Test length varies from 60 to 160 questions.
- Each test session is 5 hours long—you may only take one test per 5-hour session.
- Leaving a question blank counts against you—better to guess than leave a question blank.
What Are TExES Like?

- Must score at least 240 out of 300 (80%).
- Each TExES costs $120.
- May retake TExES as many times as needed, but must wait 60 days between CAT retakes.
- Must pass all exams before Internship II.
Yes! Most people need some kind of preparation for TExES.

“The tests are demanding enough to require serious review.” *

*Quote from Educational Testing Service (ETS) Study Tips: Preparing for the Texas Educator Certification Tests*
Eliminate Test Anxiety

Prepare + Organize + Practice = Thumbs Up
How to Prepare for the TExES

- Take TCED 4010 (Senior Seminar)--complete all assignments and use resources given in that class.
- Use UHCL’s Counseling/Student Success Center resources.
- Form a study group or get a study partner.
- Take practice tests.
- Get a tutor.
How to Prepare for the TExES

- Go to ETS website to Preparation Materials page at www.texas.ets.org/prepmaterials/

- View the video about taking a computer-administered test at http://texas.ets.org/prepmaterials/
One credit-hour exam-preparation seminar

You will compile resources to help you prepare for your state exams.

TCED 4010 is no longer required for all UHCL initial certification candidates for graduation and certification, but it is highly recommended.

May waive TCED 4010 if all exams are passed before Internship I.
Practice Tests

You may take practice tests for all of your required exams:

- In TCED 4010 Senior Seminar.
- During additional practice test sessions scheduled by State Assessments Coordinator.

- Check for dates, times, and locations by calling SoE Advising office (281-283-3609), checking bulletin board outside Advising office, viewing the website at http://prtl.uhcl.edu/portal/page/portal/SOE/Advising/State_Assessments, or by asking your SoE academic advisor.
Practice tests given by UHCL State Assessments Coordinator:

- No registration—just come.
- Five-hour sessions
- Allow yourself enough time to finish test.
- May take any practice test you need to take.
- Free for UHCL students and alumni.
- Scantron forms, pencils, and scratch paper are provided.
- Scored immediately upon finishing
- Score analysis sheet distributed after getting score.
- Test takers may not view practice test(s) for answers after getting test scored.
Sally Coleman, State Assessments Coordinator
Juanita Hall, State Assessments Secretary
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DO take these exams seriously.
DO attend class regularly, take good notes, and learn as much as you can.
DO prepare for the exams.
DO organize resource materials.
DO practice in all content areas.
DO pass your exams no later than Internship I.
1. What does TExES stand for?
2. Where do you find out what your TEA ID number is?
3. When can you start taking TExES?
4. How do you find out what TExES you need to take?
5. Where do you register for an exam?
6. What is the name of the agency that administers the exams?
7. What is the lowest passing score on the TExES?
8. How much do each of the TExES cost?
9. If you do not pass a computer-administered exam and want to retake it, how long must you wait to take it again as a computer-administered test?
10. What is the exam called that tests your knowledge about the process of teaching?
Good luck!