

FAQ – State Assessments for Undergraduates

What are the steps to TExES certification exam approval with UHCL?

- Enroll and complete necessary course work (see CoE Academic Advisor)
- Apply and be accepted to the Teacher Education Program
- Complete a PSP during 4100/4102 course
- Complete a practice exam, representative of the certification exam, and meet passing standard
- Submit both PSP and corresponding practice exam to the UHCL State Assessments Office
- Receive approval for TExES certification exam registration
 - ❖ *Unsuccessful attempts at the TExES will result in additional requirements*

Questions regarding the Personal Study Plans (PSP)

Q: Do PSPs have to be approved? Is an instructor signature required?

A: PSPs do not require approval. The purpose of the PSP is to keep track of the time spent studying and preparing for a specific exam. Students should record what is being studied and for how long. PSPs are signed off by the TCED 4100/4102 course instructor in that course only.

Q: Who approves the PSP if we fail an exam?

A: Approval of subsequent PSPs after a state exam failure is not required. However, it is expected that the student will adjust their study plan to better prepare for the next attempt.

Q: Are the PSPs completed in TCED 4100/4102 acceptable for preparation and submission prior to the TExES certification exam?

A: Yes, there is no need to recreate a new PSP specific for TExES preparation. However, it is expected that students update the PSPs with additional study hours as part of your preparation for each attempt of the TExES exam.

Q: How much time is sufficient study for each exam?

A: Refer to the first bullet of the PSP document for study time recommendations per each exam.

Q: If we have submitted our PSPs in TCED 4100/4102, do we need to send them to anyone else?

A: To ensure compliance with current policy, students must supply the State Assessments Office with a copy of all PSPs. PSPs can be submitted along with Practice exam scores.

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Q: In what format should I submit should I submit my PSP?

A: PSPs may be submitted either legibly handwritten or typed and scanned in as a pdf or Word document. No photographs, pictures or screenshots. A single .pdf or Word document containing all 5 subjects for the EC6 is acceptable so long as there is a separate page for each subject.

Q: How do I submit my PSPs?

A: Email a copy of all PSPs (one per content/supplemental) to: stateassessments@uhcl.edu

Be sure to name the files appropriately (i.e. PPR PSP [last name] or EC6 PSP [last name])

Q: What is Study.com?

A: A study resource with courses, practice exams and quizzes. It is a combination of videos and text to help you study. You may submit these hours of study time on your PSP.

Questions regarding Practice Exams

Q: Do I have to get approval to take practice exams?

A: In preparation for the first attempt at the state exam students may select an exam from Certify Teacher, 240 Tutoring, or REA. All practice exams are available online. After a state exam failure, a voucher for use of Exam Edge as the second practice exam will be provided to the student from the State Assessments Coordinator.

Q: Are there a limited amount of times we may take the practice tests?

A: No. You will need to submit a practice exam with a score $\geq 80\%$ or 240 for approval for your first attempt at the TExES. The practice exam score requirement increases with subsequent TExES attempts.

Q: When we send our practice test results, do we just type them in an email or do we need to screenshot the website?

A: Students must submit actual documentation from the practice exam entity; a pdf is highly preferable to a screen shot. An email message simply containing the score will not be accepted.

Q: When I take the EC-6/4-8 Core practice exam, should I submit each practice score separately or submit in one email?

A: Please submit the EC-6 Core Subject and 4-8 Core Subjects practice exam scores in one email. All other practice exam scores may be submitted individually. PSPs may be submitted in the same email as the corresponding practice exam scores.

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Q: How do I submit the practice exam scores?

A: Email a copy the practice exam with a passing score to stateassessments@uhcl.edu

Q: Is there a specific website where we take practice exams?

A: Our program is suggesting Certify Teacher, 240 Tutoring, or the REA manual from the TCED 4100/4102 course.

Q: Are any practice exams available in person?

A: All practice exams are available online from either Certify Teacher, 240 Tutoring or REA. UHCL no longer offers paper practice exams on campus.

More about Certify Teacher:

Certify Teacher has an access/promo code (UHCL4728) for \$35 for 3 years. You must use your UHCL email address when setting up your account for Certify Teacher. 240 Tutoring is \$39.99 monthly.

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/>

Q: Does Certify Teacher offer study guides or only practice exams?

A: Both

More about 240 Tutoring:

240 Tutoring has free practice exams available at:

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/>

Q: If I use 240 Tutoring for the practice exam, am I required to take the diagnostic practice exam from them also?

A: No, just a passing score from the final practice exam will suffice. The recommendation is to take the diagnostic practice exam first, study, then take the practice exam that will be submitted to the State Assessments Office.

Q: What is the benefit of taking the diagnostic practice exam with 240 Tutoring?

A: The diagnostic practice exam will give you extra practice, more support, and provide you will the areas you need to focus on regarding competencies.

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Q: May I submit the diagnostic practice exam from 240 tutoring or am I required to submit the final practice exam only?

A: Yes, you may submit the diagnostic practice exam, but we recommend that you to take the final practice exam and submit it as well.

Q: Can we use the Pearson practice exams?

A: Yes. Only the Interactive Exams

- Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities EC–12 Interactive Practice Exam **\$10**
- Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test (BTLPT) Spanish Interactive Practice Exam **\$10**
- Mathematics 7–12 Interactive Practice Exam **\$10**

Questions regarding TExES Exams

Q: Do we need to wait for permission to take the state exam after we have sent in our practice exam?

A: Yes, you will receive an email from the State Assessments Coordinator when approval has been granted. This will be dependent upon submission of all necessary practice exams (meeting score requirements) and PSPs.

Q: How long does it take to get approval to take the state exam after the practice exam scores are submitted?

A: Approval is typically granted within 72 hours of when the email has been received. Approval is not granted on weekends, holidays, and when UHCL is closed. Approval will be contingent upon the student supplying all required documents (i.e. practice exams and PSPs).

Q: How do I receive approval to take the state exam?

A: Once the State Assessments Office has received the necessary documentation (passing practice exam score from either Certify Teacher, 240 Tutoring or REA and submit all PSPs for the state exam which you wish to take) you will receive an email granting approval along with instructions to register for the TExES exam.

Q: Once I receive the approval to register email, how long do I have to register for the TExES?

A: That will depend upon the personal situation of each student. There are costs and scheduling issues associated with the TExES which students must evaluate for themselves. Additionally, there are timelines to consider such as time left in the semester, holidays, preparation, among many other factors. It is highly recommended that students register for an exam sooner rather than later.

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Q: How do I pay for the state exam?

A: When you receive an email from the State Assessments Office granting approval to take the state exam, there will be a link to the Pearson website where you will register and pay for the exams.

Q: What if I am not successful on the state exam?

A: Per policy students must do the following:

- Update their PSP with additional study time and preparation.
- Communicate directly with the State Assessments Coordinator to discuss preparation for the next attempt.
- Receive a voucher code for a second practice exam through Exam Edge; this will come from the State Assessments Coordinator
- Submit updated PSP along with practice exam with minimum scoring requirements (practice exam score requirements increase with each subsequent attempt at the TExES) – see the UG Exam Policy:
- <https://www.uhcl.edu/education/documents/ug-policy-governing-the-texas-exams.pdf>

Q: What if I failed one or more subjects on my Core content exam?

A: Students do not need to take the entire Core exam again. Students would complete a practice exam only for the subject(s), meet the required passing standard and be granted approval for their next state exam attempt. See state testing policy for guidelines on what retaking only portions of the state exam.

http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=TXCBT_TestingPolicies.html&t=TX291

Q: How much time must pass between taking the same exam again?

A: 30 day waiting period. See Retake Policy:

http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=TXCBT_TestingPolicies.html&t=TX291

Q: How many times may I take a state certification exam?

A: Candidates are limited to five (5) attempts. The five attempts include the first attempt to pass the exam and four retakes. A sixth attempt will require a TEA Waiver and approval.

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Q: What date do I have to have my state exams passed by to participate in TCED 4978 Internship II Clinical Teaching?

A: All state exams must be passed prior to the close of late registration in each long (fall/spring) semester. The (hard) date will vary each semester.

Fall 2020 Intern I students must have exams passed by January 25, 2021

Refer to the UHCL Academic Calendar website for registration deadlines

<https://www.uhcl.edu/academics/resources/academic-calendar/>

Q: Do you have to have the ESL concentration exam done as well prior to participating in TCED 4978 Internship II Clinical Teaching?

A: Yes, all TExES exams includes the Bilingual Supplemental, BTLPT, ESL Supplemental, & SPED EC-12

Q: What is the difference between test #291 and #391. Do the EC-6 candidates take both?

A: The #291 is the original EC-6 Core Subjects test. The #391 is the updated EC-6 Core Subjects tests that eliminates duplicate content between the ELAR and STR. The 391 exam is recommended for first time test takers after January 1, 2021.

Q: Do we choose the location to take the TExES Exam?

A: Yes, you choose the location for your test.

Q: What testing center may I take the state exam?

A: Any testing center in the state of Texas. Refer to the Pearson website for open testing centers

<https://www.tx.nesinc.com/>

Due to COVID19 limitations please see below regarding information on nearby testing sites:

Student recommendations regarding testing center sites

- You will have to change zip codes to locate testing center sites near your home.
- Input from current UHCL students
 - o Stafford 10701 Corporate Drive Suite 285 Stafford, TX 77477
 - o Houston Language Institute in Katy area. Always open and lots of availability
 - o Houston Area Safety Council building in the Pasadena, Deer Park, La Porte area.
 - o Pearson location in Humble.
 - o Location by the Galleria; they have available dates.
- NOTE – UHCL may not have available testing dates until late Fall 2020

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Science of Teaching Reading (STR #293) Questions

Beginning January 2021, the following certifications will take the Science of Teaching Reading TExES exam #293.

- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Early Childhood–Grade 6
- Core Subjects with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8
- English Language Arts and Reading with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8
- English Language Arts and Reading/Social Studies with Science of Teaching Reading: Grades 4–8

Q: When will the STR be available?

A: The exam will be available in January 2021.

Q: I heard that if you take and pass your Core EC-6 test before it comes out you do not have to take it? Is that true?

A: Yes, for fall 2020 TCED 4978 Internship II Clinical Teaching Candidates as their standard teaching certificate will be issued in December 2020

No, for fall 2020 TCED 4378 Internship I Candidates as their standard teaching certificate will be issued in May 2021

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/science-of-teaching-reading-study-aids>

Q: Will the STR exam keep us from participating in TCED 4978 Internship II - Clinical Teaching?

A: No. You will take the STR during Internship II as it will not be available before January 2021.

Q: Will the STR exam affect those who plan to graduate in May 2021?

A: Yes, only if the STR exam has not been passed.

Q: Does the STR have a constructed response portion or is it all multiple choice like the other exams?

A: The exam has both multiple choice and constructed responses.

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/documents/science-teaching-reading-exam-content-design.pdf>

Q: Do we have to take the STR if we are content-specific?

A: The STR is required for many certifications but not all. Please visit the Initial TExES Certification Exam Table to determine if this exam is required for your certification area.

<https://www.uhcl.edu/education/documents/ug-policy-governing-the-texas-exams.pdf>

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Q: I heard each district has different requirements regarding STR.

A: All initial certification candidates graduating in May 2021 and beyond are required to take the STR in order to be eligible for their standard teaching certificate. You will be able to share with the school district of hire that you have already passed the STR exam.

Helpful links:

UHCL State Assessments for Educator Certification: <https://www.uhcl.edu/education/certification/state-assessments/>

TExES exam policy: http://www.tx.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=TXCBT_TestingPolicies.html&t=TX291

TExES registration: <https://www.tx.nesinc.com/>

UHCL State Assessments inbox: stateassessments@uhcl.edu

State Assessments Coordinator: Laura Sarafin, M.Ed. SarafinL@uhcl.edu

Have additional questions not addressed in this document? Please email suggestions to Mrs. Sarafin.