How I passed!

-Arlyssia Lemon

I passed the PPR by using REA books and the study center that comes with the book. I studied over the Winter break for about a month and I studied about two hours a session.

I wrote out the things that I knew I didn’t know and I would make flash cards out of the ones that were vocabulary words. Doing the practice questions from the back of the book and from the study center website (the password that comes in the front the book for the website) helped me the most. I played music in the back ground to have a calm atmosphere.

Here’s a tip, the testing center had wet erase boards not dry erase boards. So anything that you write stays there.

Tips to Success, During and After College!

For information on TExES testing, preparation, registration and other resources visit:
www.uhcl.edu/state-assessments
Tips for Success!

April Workshops
--There's still time!

College of Education
Scholarships!

Disability Services

TEA and ACP

Loan Forgiveness

Study Resources
How Do I Become TExES Teacher Certified?

*UHCL TExES Undergraduate Quick Reference Map
(Always refer to: degree plan, your advisor, and the Academic catalog)

1. **Complete pre-requisites** EDUC 4310, INST 3313 (2.75 GPA)

2. **Complete pre-requisites** SILC 4315 (includes ELPS) (2.75 GPA)

3. Complete TEP Application
   [https://www.uhcl.edu/education/advising/state-assessments](https://www.uhcl.edu/education/advising/state-assessments)

4. **Complete Pre-requisites** TCED 4100 or 4102 TEA Rep Test & Start Certification Exams


6. **Complete other Teacher Education courses** (e.g. Methods)

7. Enroll in Intern I TCED 4378 Pass all State exams

8. Enroll in Intern II TCED 4978 Certification!

**Courses can be in progress and apply to Teacher Education Program**
(Refer to UHCL Policies governing TExES exam for details: [https://www.uhcl.edu/state-assessments](https://www.uhcl.edu/state-assessments))
For more information and updates on State Testing [http://www.tx.nesinc.com](http://www.tx.nesinc.com)
*Student must be enrolled/active to obtain approval to test.
** Score requirement increases by 5% if TExES is failed.
Student must submit another PSP and retake TEA Representative Test (formerly known as practice test) if TExES is failed.
The PPR
For this exam I studied until I couldn’t study any more. I took every free practice test available. I made a table that included each competency and the question numbers related to that competency in the left column, and in the right column I wrote out specific notes outlining why I got the questions wrong and what made the correct answers the best to select. I also heavily reviewed my ELPS descriptors and created notes that described each level of proficiency along with the types of accommodations suggested for each one (written notes, repeat/paraphrase of instruction, translator services, etc.).

After I went over these notes several times and walked away from the material for a few days, I took the practice exams again and repeated the process. After this, I subscribed to two test-prep websites and I completed their practice exams while taking notes over the answer choices. Another helpful thing I did was to create a list of “bad” words (tell, require, demonstrate) and “good” words (model, facilitate, discuss).

These helped me to eliminate answer choices that seem like good choices but were not quite on par with the answer choices best suited for the questions. Finally, I went over the exam a second time after completing it to make sure I could justify every answer.

The TExES Life Science Exam
This one was more tricky. There is a LOT of science content covered from grades 7-12. In this instance, I took this practice exam on a trial-run after completing my practice PPR exam. This gave me an idea of what I needed to study and what I already knew.

My initial score was terrible for two reasons: 1. The time limit on the practice exam was not the full five hours, it was 60 minutes, and as I neared the last 20 questions of the exam I only had roughly 10 minutes left on the timer and couldn’t give the questions as much thought as I would have liked to; 2. I had either forgotten a good deal of information being tested or I hadn’t learned it yet. In order to prepare and pass this exam, I reviewed the preparation guide provided by the TEA along with the preparation manual I purchased for the Content Seminar course. In each of these I made sure to note information I was lacking and used this to focus my review.

Finally, after having taken the practice exam prior, I reviewed concepts I knew I had missed or didn’t understand and made sure to include them in my study materials.

It all comes down to preparation. In order to pass these exams, you can’t just study the day or two prior, it takes weeks. I studied during my fall semester Content Seminar class, I studied over winter break, and I continued to study as my testing dates approached. I also made sure to give myself breaks of a few days to a week between study sessions to improve my ability to recall information. You have to solidify the concepts and it takes time to make sure it all sticks.

I hope this helps!

-Sarah Hensley
This is You, after you have passed your State exam!