

Licensure Assessments Guidance (effective June 1, 2023)

The following guidance document outlines assessment changes and requirements beginning June 1, 2023, as articulated in the Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators (5.105) policy.

Pedagogical Assessment Requirements for Candidates Completing Job-Embedded Preparation Programs

Beginning June 1, 2023, educators who are completing a state board approved job-embedded preparation program will no longer be required to complete a pedagogical (i.e., edTPA or Praxis PLT) assessment for initial license, licensure renewal, or licensure advancement. This revision applies to both academic and occupational licensure candidates. Pedagogical assessments will be required for job-embedded educators seeking to reactivate a license.

Specialty Area Content Assessments

Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a specialty area content assessment (e.g., Praxis or NES assessment) is not required for *individuals seeking to advance from the practitioner teacher license to the professional teacher license* if:

- a. the educator has completed a State Board-approved educator preparation program with a job-embedded clinical practice; and
- b. the educator obtained the practitioner license and endorsement by demonstrating that they hold a degree with a major¹ aligned to a middle or secondary core academic or World Language endorsement.

Beginning June 1, 2023, the submission of qualifying scores on a specialty area content assessment is not required for *individuals seeking a practitioner license* if:

- a. the educator has completed a State Board-approved baccalaureate or post-baccalaureate educator preparation program; and
- b. the educator demonstrates that they hold a degree with a major² aligned to a [qualifying](#) middle or secondary core academic or World Language endorsement for which they are seeking licensure and endorsement.

What is a qualifying major?

Major refers to standalone baccalaureate major or master's degree and not majors within the Colleges of Education (e.g., a Physics major (standalone) is applicable; however, a Physics Education major (earned within the College of Education) does not qualify). The following table provides an example:

Major/Degree Name	Does this qualify?
Physics	Yes
Secondary Physics Education <i>(earned within the College of Education)</i>	No
Physics and Education <i>(double major)</i>	Yes
Physics Major and Education Minor <i>(or specialization in teaching)</i>	Yes

¹ Major refers to standalone majors and not majors within the Colleges of Education

² Major refers to standalone majors and not majors within the Colleges of Education

In accordance with the [Professional Assessments for Tennessee Educators Policy \(5.105\)](#), the following endorsement areas are considered qualifying majors for the purpose of this provision: *American Sign Language, Biology, Chemistry, Chinese (Mandarin), Earth Science, Economics, English, French, Geography, German, Government, History, Latin, Mathematics, Other World Languages, Physics, Psychology, Sociology, and Spanish*. An official qualifying major in the content area must be awarded on an individual’s transcript for the assessment to be waived. Credit hours equivalent to a major are not eligible under this policy.

Note: A qualifying major alone is an acceptable pathway for adding an endorsement to a license as of 2/16/2024.

Impacts to Licensure

Beginning June 1, 2023, the following table outlines the requirements for educator assessments by category for practitioner licenses:

Candidate	Pedagogical Assessment (e.g., edTPA, Praxis PLT)	Specialty Area Content Assessment (e.g., Praxis, ALTA)	Specialty Area Reading Assessment (e.g., Teaching Reading Praxis)
Job-embedded with qualifying major in content area:			
<i>Initial licensure</i>	No	No	No
<i>Licensure renewal</i>	No	No	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
<i>Licensure advancement</i>	No	No	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
<i>Licensure reactivation</i>	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
Job-embedded without qualifying major in content area:			
<i>Initial licensure</i>	No	Yes	No
<i>Licensure renewal</i>	No	N/A	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
<i>Licensure advancement</i>	No	N/A	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
<i>Licensure reactivation</i>	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
Non-job-embedded (i.e., student teaching/internship preparation program) <u>with</u> qualifying major in content area:			
<i>Initial Licensure</i>	Yes	No	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
<i>Licensure renewal</i>	N/A	No	N/A
<i>Licensure advancement</i>	N/A	No	N/A
<i>Licensure reactivation</i>	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
Non-job-embedded (i.e., student teaching/internship preparation program) <u>without</u> qualifying major in content area:			
<i>Initial Licensure</i>	Yes	Yes	Yes (if required for the endorsement)
<i>Licensure renewal</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Licensure advancement</i>	N/A	N/A	N/A
<i>Licensure reactivation</i>	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (unless reactivating a professional level license)	Yes (if required for the endorsement)

***Please Note:** Successful completion of the state-approved training and/or assessment for the Tennessee Literacy Success Act does **not** satisfy Specialty Area Reading Assessment requirements. Successful completion of the Specialty Area Reading Assessment does **not** satisfy Tennessee Literacy Success Act requirements.