

Resources for Addressing Barriers in Passing Praxis I and/or Praxis II Exams

This list will be updated as the National Center learns of innovative solutions.

Issue: Successfully Passing Praxis I or II

Licensure exams are another important step in the certification of early childhood educators. Praxis I exams test basic skills such as reading, writing and mathematics, while Praxis II exams are specific to a course of study. Many potential [teachers have varying levels of preparation](#) that may make it hard to pass Praxis I or Praxis II exams or even find time to study; in addition, this same report found a disconnect between test materials and preparation book material, making it harder to prepare for the actual exam. These exams, according to many faculty of color, often [lack questions with content relevant to minorities](#) or non-traditional students, which may result in [lower passing scores for minorities](#). Test anxiety also plays a part in the difficulty of passing Praxis I and/or II. However, not all states use these tests of knowledge.

Promising Practices

1. Employ tutors, success coaches and staff for students in preparation for Praxis I and II exams. Utilizing available help in the form of tutors or other staff members allows students to prepare for the Praxis I and II exams. Dr. Dawn Mollenkopf (mollenkopfdl@unk.edu), an ECE Associate Professor at the University of Nebraska-Kearney, said their program offers tutors (online through Zoom and in person) and success coaches to help students pass the PRAXIS exams. The [University of Wisconsin-Superior](#) also offers tutoring and writing support to help students pass both Praxis I and II exams.
2. Provide practice preparation courses (online or in person) for students in order to develop the skills necessary for Praxis I and II completion. Some colleges, such as [Metro Community College](#) and [Alverno College \(WI\)](#), offer preparation courses for Praxis I exams. In these courses, students take practice tests and conduct learning activities relating to [math, reading and writing](#). According to Dr. Amy Hnasko (email: amy.hnasko@wilkes.edu), an Assistant Professor at Wilkes University (PA), their program offers an online practice site and evening sessions where students can prepare for the exams as well as take various practice exams. Other colleges, such as the [University of Nebraska-Kearney](#), also have study guides, practice tests and other online material that alert students to what to expect on the exam.
3. Make Praxis exams only one part of the screening process for teacher licensure. Another promising strategy, though perhaps more difficult to implement, includes waiving the Praxis exams and using GPA or degree completion as an equivalent marker for comprehension. For instance, the [University of Wisconsin-Whitewater](#) requires students to either pass the Praxis II exam or to have at least a 3.0 GPA in ECE coursework in order to waive the exam. They also have similar waiver requirements for the Praxis I exam. Waiving the Praxis exams in lieu of other measures will hinge on the degree licensure requirements set by the licensing bodies in a state.
4. Some colleges encourage students to use online practice prep such as [PrepSTEP \(for Praxis I and Praxis II\)](#) or [Khan Academy \(for Praxis I\)](#). These online practice prep sites allow students to personalize their study plan, learn appropriate material and take practice Praxis exams.
5. The National Education Association (NEA) developed several resources aimed at helping prospective teachers pass licensure exams. They provide an online study guide titled [Principles of Learning and Teaching](#), which is an interactive study guide that presents individuals with tips for test taking as well as how to handle anxiety, practice questions, how to enhance student comprehension and other information on curriculum for educators.

6. ETS offers [free webinars](#), [online tutorials for the Praxis I exams](#) and full-day in-person workshops for individuals to take to receive information about test taking skills and content of the exams.

If you know of any promising strategies to address this barrier and would like to share, please contact Judy Leinbach at judy@teachecnationalcenter.org.



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