

PRAXIS II Exams for Secondary Social Studies License

Effective July 1, 2014 (Updated Fall 2021)

Exams Required For License in Secondary Social Studies

5081: Social Studies Content Knowledge

When to Take the Exams

You must allow sufficient time for your scores to be received by RCOE in time to post grades for student teaching. Certainly, it makes sense to take the exams after completing as much as possible of your coursework. However, since student teaching is such a busy time, it is also a good idea to take the exams prior to or early on in that semester.

Register For the Tests

Register online at the ETS website (<http://www.ets.org>). Notice that all tests are taken on the computer now. The paper-delivery method has been phased out. There are various test dates and sites. Content Knowledge is a two-hour test with 130 multiple choice questions, so you will be able to see your score immediately.

Report Your Scores

Be sure to list the **code 5010**. If you just choose the general ASU code, your scores go to the Registrar and have to be sent to Dr. Lambert and/or Reeder's office, which of course takes extra time.

There is no need to have your scores reported to the NC Department of Public Instruction. PRAXIS II scores automatically are reported to the state department of the state in which you take the test. Use that slot to send your scores to an individual school system or another state.

Passing Scores

5081 : Social Studies Content Knowledge

158

Preparing For the Exams

On the PRAXIS II page of the ETS website (www.ets.org), notice the link for Prepare for A Test. Select the test you want to look at and go to Study Companion. There you will find a good description of what the exam covers and how to study. The Content Knowledge exam covers good information, so be sure to read it. The test prep videos are new and are very helpful for learning what to expect.

The best and easiest tool to study for the Content Knowledge exam is high school textbooks. After all, the test measures whether you are prepared to teach high school courses. In the texts read the introduction, summary, questions, and bold print in each chapter. That review will refresh you on

vocabulary and show you what you need to study a little. Twenty percent of the Content Knowledge exam is US History, 20% World History, 20% Civics/Political Science, 15% Economics, 15% Geography, and 10% Behavioral Sciences. Past students reported that review of their history courses prepared them for the Geography and Behavioral Sciences (human behavior in society, culture, etc.) sections of the exam.

It is not necessary to purchase the study materials on the PRAXIS website. What is in them is not any different or better than studying high school texts as described above and reading/viewing the Study Companion and the free online test preparation videos. Below are free test preparation videos and resources that may be helpful:

- ETS Preparation Materials: <https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare>
- Khan Academy (for content review): <https://www.khanacademy.org/>
- Praxis Fee Waiver Form: <https://rcoe.appstate.edu/students/forms-resources-testing>
- ETS Praxis Test Prep Webinars: <https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/webinars>
- ETS Praxis Testing Video Library: <https://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/video>

NOTE: NCDPI used to ask for another exam - Principles of Teaching and Learning - as part of PRAXIS II; however, edTPA passing scores now replace this previous exam. If you do not pass edTPA you cannot complete student teaching, but the PoTL exam can be taken if you proceed in an alternative route.

PRAXIS II Requirement Reinstated

Taking PRAXIS II is a requirement of student teaching here at ASU. However, you still can pass student teaching and graduate if you fail your PRAXIS II exam. If you have failed your Praxis II exam, once you get a teaching job you are required to take PRAXIS II in Year 1, again in Year 2, and again in Year 3. If you do not pass both tests by Year 3, you will not be licensed to teach in NC.