

PRAXIS II Exams for Secondary Social Studies License

Effective September 1, 2025

Exams Required For License in Secondary Social Studies

5581: Social Studies

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 most 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 (<https://praxis.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 App State code, your scores go to the Registrar and have to be sent to the Office of Field Experience in RCOE, 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

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153

Preparing For the Exams

On the ETS website, you can purchase a [practice test](#) for 5581 Social Studies. Other free options are also available online or through Belk Library. [This page](#) offers a brief description of what the exam covers and how to study.

Some useful tool to study for the Content Knowledge exam are the U.S. History textbook [American Yawp](#) and 9-12 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. Usually, the exam has the following breakdown: 20% 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 some free test preparation videos and resources that may be helpful:

- 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: If you do not pass edTPA you cannot complete student teaching; for PRAXIS II, you simply must take and report scores to RCOE before you finish student teaching. However, passing PRAXIS II makes you a much more attractive job candidate.

If you failed your Praxis II exam, you can still be hired! Once you get a teaching job, you will be required to take PRAXIS II in Year 1, again in Year 2, and again in Year 3. If you do not pass PRAXIS II by Year 3, you will not be fully licensed to teach in NC.