

# **PRAXIS II Exams for Secondary Social Studies License**

Effective July 1, 2014

## ***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 one or both of your PRAXIS II exams. 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.

## ***Background***

Requiring PRAXIS II was NC's standard policy in the past, but that requirement was suspended to make it easier to get teachers into the classroom during the teacher shortage. RCOE made taking PRAXIS II a requirement of student teaching because we thought it was likely to be reinstated as a requirement at some point. Now that has happened, and our current students and graduates are in good shape because most of them already have passed PRAXIS II by the time they graduate.

## ***Two Exams Required For License in Secondary Social Studies***

5081: Social Studies Content Knowledge

5624: Principles of Learning and Teaching – Grades 7-12

## ***When to Take the Exams***

Because your Principles of Learning test includes essays, your score reports will take up to four weeks to process. You must allow sufficient time for your scores to be received by Dr. Lambert's office in time to post grades for student teaching. Certainly, it makes sense to take the exams after completing as much as possible of your course work. However, since student teaching is such a busy time, it also is 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. Principles of Teaching has essays that can take up to 4 weeks to grade.

## ***Report Your Scores***

**Be sure to list the code for Dr. Monica Lambert's Office, which is 5010.** If you just choose the general ASU code, your scores go to the Registrar and have to be relayed to Dr. Lambert'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
5624: Principles of Learning and Teaching – Grades 7-12	157

## ***Preparing For the Exams***

On the PRAXIS II page of the ETS website ([www.ets.org](http://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 - be sure to read it! The test prep videos are new and are very helpful for learning what to expect.

The best tools for study for the Content Knowledge exam are your notes from the 2000 and 3000-level History courses and High School textbooks. Plenty of copies of textbooks are available at the Belk Library, at the school you are currently interning for Methods, and some extras are available for checkout in Dr. Sibaja's office. After all, the test measures whether you are prepared to teach high school courses.

In the textbooks, 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.

Principles of Learning and Teaching is a fairly new exam that tests only pedagogy. Carefully read the Study Companion because it provides a very detailed list of the content covered along with example questions/answers. Notice that there are four short essays, and you can see good examples along with the scoring rubric at the end of the Study Companion. Look over your notes from Education courses at ASU.

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.