

Recommendation for Certification: GPA & Praxis Requirements Frequently Asked Questions

We are releasing these FAQs in response to questions of clarification on two policy announcements regarding the relationship of the GPA and Praxis requirements. The first is the October 7, 2009 memo regarding the 2.8 GPA/Standard Deviation policy which was clarified in February, 2010. The second is the April 1, 2010 GPA/Praxis Qualifying Score policy.

Both the 2.8 GPA and the GPA/Praxis Qualifying Score policies are to be implemented at the time of application for certification. These policies are for recommendation for certification purposes only. The policies are based on the overall minimum GPA, that is, the GPA documented on the candidate's official transcript upon completion of the preparation program.

PRAXIS Qualifying Score

1. When does an institution apply the Praxis Qualifying Score policy?

This new policy is for certification recommendation and should be considered only when recommending a candidate for certification to PDE on the 338 C form.

2. How does PDE define the GPA referred to in the Praxis Qualifying Score Policy for certification recommendation?

The policy is based on the overall GPA, defined as the GPA earned at the completion of:

- A teacher prep program that results in the conferral of a Bachelor's degree; or
- A post-baccalaureate or graduate-level teacher prep program.
- An initial teacher prep program taken at the baccalaureate and post-baccalaureate level as permitted pursuant to 22 Pa. Code § 354.33 (5),(6);

3. Does the policy apply to the Praxis I tests?

Institutions are required by Chapter 354.31 (3)(ii) to have admission criteria based on assessment of academic performance (Praxis I). Most candidates will take the Praxis I series before entering a program, so the policy will not apply to the majority of candidates.

Candidates who complete a program with an overall minimum GPA higher than a 3.0, are eligible for consideration under the policy.

4. Does the policy apply to program entrance requirements?

There is no change to program entrance requirements for admission into a preparation program. 22 Pa. Code §354.31(4) states, "The preparing institution shall ensure that applicants admitted to an initial preparation program culminating in a bachelor's degree or higher shall complete prior college or university coursework, with a minimum grade point average (GPA) as follows: (iii) 3.0.

The Praxis Qualifying Score policy does not impact program admission GPA as cited above, and is applied only for purposes of recommendation for certification (see Question 1).

5. If a candidate qualifies for a recommendation of certification based on the *Praxis Qualifying Score* policy, is the institution required to recommend the candidate?

Regulation permits an institution to recommend a candidate pursuant to 354.33(6). If the institution does not recommend the candidate, the candidate does have the right to appeal the decision directly to the Department.

6. Does this Praxis policy apply to Instructional Add-Ons?

This policy does not apply to instructional add-ons. It only applies to candidates who have completed a prep program and have an overall GPA at the completion of the program.

7. Does the Praxis Qualifying Score policy impact the Composite Score Policy for the Praxis I?

No, they are two distinct policies for certification recommendation based on testing.

8. When does this Praxis policy go into effect?

The Praxis Qualifying Score policy was effective retroactive to January 1, 2010. An institution may recommend any candidate who currently meets the requirements for certification based on the policy regardless of when the actual program was completed.

9. If a candidate has taken the test more than once does one of the past scores qualify the candidate for certification recommendation based on the *Praxis Qualifying Score* policy?

Content area tests scores are valid for ten years, and basic skills tests are valid for life. Therefore, as long as the scores remain valid the policy may be applied.

10. How does this Praxis policy apply to the Vocational candidate?

The Praxis Qualifying Score policy will apply to Vocational Instructional II recommendation - not Vocational I candidates. (The program has not been completed at the issuance of the Vocational Instructional I certificate)

2.8 GPA

11. GPA 2.8: If a candidate has less than an overall 3.0 GPA, can the policy be applied to the PPSTs (Praxis I) qualifying scores?

No. 22 Pa. Code § 354.33(6)(i) permits the use of the standard deviation for the **Praxis II content area tests** for certification recommendation when a candidate has earned a 2.8-2.99 overall GPA.

The policy does not apply to the basic skills testing for candidates with less than an overall 3.0 GPA. This is why the chart shows "N/A" in the Reading, Writing, and Math PPST exams/ less than 3.0 GPA column.

GPA & PRAXIS

12. How is the standard deviation determined?

The standard deviation is based on standard error of measurement data provided by the testing company.