

505-2-.26 CERTIFICATION AND LICENSURE ASSESSMENTS

(1) **Purpose.** This rule outlines specific assessment requirements for obtaining Renewable and Non-Renewable Georgia certification. The Georgia Professional Standards Commission (GaPSC) administers through a testing supplier educator assessments required for certification. As of September 1, 2006, the Georgia Assessments for the Certification of Educators™ (GACE) is the state-approved educator certification assessment program in Georgia. GACE assessments include Program Admission, Content, Standards-based assessment of knowledge of the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators and Paraprofessional assessments. All GACE assessments are aligned with state-approved educator preparation program standards, national standards, and the state standards for the P-12 curriculum, which are the Georgia Common Core Performance Standards (GCCPS). Information about the GACE program is available at www.gapsc.com. In addition to the GACE, there are other state-accepted content pedagogy and content assessments for certain foreign language and trade and industrial fields. Currently, there are no content assessments for the fields of Dance, Drama, Physical and Health Disabilities, School Social Work, Special Education Preschool Ages (3-5) and Visual Impairment.

(2) Program Admission Assessment.

(a) The GACE Program Admission assessment measures an individual's general knowledge in the areas of reading, mathematics, and writing at a competency level to be successful in an educator preparation program (EPP);

(b) The following individuals are required to either pass or exempt the GACE Program Admission assessment:

1. Candidates seeking admission to a Georgia educator preparation program. Verification of this requirement is the responsibility of the EPP and is documented on the Georgia Approved Program Completion form used to verify program completion. Documentation of any exemption must also be provided to the GaPSC upon application for an Induction certificate through Pathway One (1);

2. Applicants seeking an Induction certificate through Pathway Four (4);

3. Applicants for the service field of School Social Work (See GaPSC Rules 505-2-.147 SCHOOL SOCIAL WORK); and

4. Initial permit holders applying for an extension, with the exception of JROTC Permit holders employed prior to July 1, 2004.

(c) Applicants seeking an Induction certificate through Pathways Two (2) or Three (3) and out-of-state professional certificate holders applying for an Induction or Professional certificate through reciprocity are not required to meet the Program Admission Requirement.

(d) Information regarding the Program Admission Requirement and exemption criteria can be accessed at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/BasicSkillsInfo.aspx>.

(3) Content Assessment.

(a) The GACE content assessments test knowledge in a variety of content areas as required for certification. GACE content assessments have two passing levels: Induction and Professional. All

passing scores earned on GACE assessments completed before July 1, 2017, will be treated as Professional level scores even if the official score report reflects an Induction level score. Attaining a passing score at the Professional level on a GACE content assessment also satisfies any requirement to pass at the Induction level. Information on the content assessments required for Georgia certification may be accessed at www.gapsc.com;

(b) The following individuals are required to pass the GACE content assessment for the desired certification field at the Induction level or higher:

1. Applicants seeking an Induction certificate through any of the four (4) pathways;

(i) For Special Education fields, the pre-requisite is the special education academic content concentration(s), which must be verified through an academic degree major or the appropriate academic content assessment(s). The appropriate Special Education field assessment must then be completed before conversion to a Professional certificate;

2. Induction certificate holders applying to add a supplemental Induction field; and

3. Applicants seeking an initial permit in a foreign language field.

(c) The following individuals are required to pass the GACE content assessment for the desired certification field at the Professional level:

1. Georgia certificate holders applying for an initial Professional certificate;

2. Georgia Professional certificate holders applying to add a certification field. Such applicants who have passed the appropriate GACE content assessment at the Induction level but not the Professional level and have fulfilled all other requirements to add the field may be issued a Non-Renewable Professional certificate;

3. Out-of-state educators applying for initial Professional certification in Georgia based on reciprocity:

(i) These educators may exempt the content assessment requirement by meeting the exemption criteria outlined in section (10)(a) below; and

(ii) If an out-of-state educator meets all qualifications for initial Professional teaching or service certification in Georgia except that the GACE content assessment has been passed at the Induction level and not the Professional level, an Induction certificate may be issued;

4. Georgia educators who complete out-of-state programs leading to certification must pass the GACE content assessment; these educators shall not be eligible for the exemption outlined in section (10)(a) below, even upon submission of an out-of-state professional certificate;

5. Applicants seeking to extend an initial permit in a Foreign Language field must pass the appropriate content assessment(s) at the Professional level if passed at the Induction level for the initial Permit as outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.10 PERMIT;

6. Applicants seeking to extend an initial permit in the fields of Art or Music; and

7. Applicants applying for an Adjunct license must pass the appropriate GACE content assessment(s) for the field(s) being taught or hold the appropriate professional licensure for the profession or field of instructional experience; and

(d) For fields in which there is no GACE assessment available, the GaPSC may designate other state-approved certification exams. The Praxis exam is the Georgia state-approved content assessment for the field of Speech and Language Pathology, and the proficiency exams offered by the American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL), detailed in section (9) below, are the Georgia state-approved content assessments for foreign language fields in which there is no GACE exam available.

(e) Georgia does not have a content assessment for the fields of Audiology, Dance, Drama, School Nutrition Director, School Social Work, Speech, Physical and Health Disabilities, Special Education Preschool, Visual Impairment, and some foreign language fields. In fields for which there is no Georgia state-approved or state-accepted content assessment, passing a content assessment for certification is not required. (See GaPSC Rule 505-3-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS).

(4) Content Pedagogy Assessment.

(a) The GaPSC-approved content pedagogy assessment is designed to assess knowledge and skills in the areas of student development and learning, instruction and assessment, and professional roles and responsibilities. A passing score on the GaPSC-approved content pedagogy assessment is required for the following:

(a) Issuance of an Induction Pathway One (1) or Two (2) certificate to any applicant who completed the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of his/her state-approved initial certification program on or after September 1, 2015;

(b) Conversion of an Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate held by any applicant who completed the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of his/her state-approved initial certification program on or after September 1, 2015; and

(c) Reissuance or conversion of an Induction Pathway Three (3) certificate that was first issued on or after September 1, 2015, with the following exceptions:

1. An applicant with at least one (1) year of full-time, acceptable out-of-state educator experience as defined in GaPSC Rule [505-2-.25 EXPERIENCE REQUIREMENTS](#) prior to issuance of the Induction certificate may exempt this requirement;

2. An applicant who has demonstrated a GaPSC-determined passing score on another GaPSC-accepted portfolio-based pedagogy assessment taken as part of an educator preparation program may exempt this requirement;

3. An applicant who was required to pass a pedagogy assessment in order to obtain professional certification in another state may exempt this requirement;

4. An applicant who was not required to complete a GaPSC-approved or GaPSC-accepted content pedagogy assessment during his/her educator preparation program may exempt this requirement by meeting or exceeding a GaPSC-determined passing score on a designated alternative assessment;

5. An applicant who became professionally certified in another state prior to September 1, 2015, may exempt this requirement; and

6. An applicant who completed the clinical practice or student teaching requirements of his/her state-approved initial certification program prior to September 1, 2015, may exempt this requirement.

(5) Educator Ethics Assessment.

(a) The Georgia Educator Ethics Assessment are designed to both teach and assess knowledge and skills in the areas of the Georgia Code of Ethics for Educators and of ethical understanding to guide behaviors and decision making.

(a) As of January 1, 2015, a passing score on the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Exit Assessment is required for the following:

1. Issuance of an Induction certificate through Pathway One (1) or Two (2);
2. Reissuance or conversion of an Induction certificate attained through Pathway Three (3); and
3. Conversion of an Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate to a Professional certificate.

(b) As of January 1, 2015, completion of the Georgia Educator Ethics – Program Entry Assessment is required for the following:

1. Issuance of a Pre-Service certificate, with the following exception:
 - (i) Pre-Service certificate applicants who have been continuously enrolled in the same educator preparation program since July 1, 2014, or earlier are exempt from this requirement. Note: the term “enrolled” is defined as admitted to a program and actively taking coursework; and
2. Issuance of an Induction Pathway Four (4) certificate.

(6) Paraprofessional Assessment.

(a) The GACE assessment for paraprofessionals in Georgia covers four (4) areas: reading, writing, mathematics and classroom skills. The Paraprofessional assessment is designed to enable individuals and school districts to satisfy state and federal No Child Left Behind requirements that call for "highly qualified paraprofessionals" in a P-12 setting. These requirements indicate that paraprofessionals working in Title I schools or paid with Title I funds must meet a rigorous standard of quality and demonstrate, through formal state or local assessment, knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing, reading, writing, and mathematics; or knowledge of and ability to assist in instructing, reading readiness, writing readiness, and mathematics readiness, as appropriate.

(b) Passing the GACE Paraprofessional assessment, in combination with a high school diploma or GED equivalent, is one of the options available to qualify for a Paraprofessional Certificate. (See GaPSC Rule 505-2-.18 PARAPROFESSIONAL CERTIFICATE).

(7) Educational Leadership Assessment.

(a) The GACE Educational Leadership assessment is designed to assess knowledge and skills for those completing Educational Leadership performance-based programs).The GACE Educational Leadership assessment is required for Performance-Based leadership certification even if the educator has previously passed the Teacher Certification Test (TCT).

(b) Applicants applying for certification in Educational Leadership in Georgia based on reciprocity must pass the GACE Educational Leadership assessment or meet exemption criteria in (10)(a) for content knowledge assessment(s) appropriate to the field of educational leadership prior to the issuance of the Professional certificate:

1. A Non-Renewable Professional certificate may be issued at the request of an employing Georgia LUA to individuals applying for initial certification based on reciprocity who must satisfy the content assessment.

(c) The GACE Educational Leadership content assessment must be passed at the Professional level. There is no Induction level passing score for this assessment.

(8) Trade and Industrial Education Assessment.

(a) For Trade and Industrial Education certificates, GaPSC accepts a number of different industry assessments offered by a variety of external organizations. The accepted assessments are detailed in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.90 TRADE AND INDUSTRIAL EDUCATION.

(9) Foreign Language Assessment.

(a) A GACE assessment is not available for certain foreign language fields. For these fields, the GaPSC requires The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) Oral Proficiency Test (OPT) and Written Proficiency Test (WPT). If the OPI and WPT are passed for fields that have a GACE content assessment for issuance of a Permit, the GACE content assessment must be passed at the Professional level for conversion of a Permit to a Professional certificate.

(b) The American Council on the Teaching of Foreign Languages (ACTFL) foreign language assessments are considered appropriate content assessments for adding a new foreign language teaching field in fields for which there is no Georgia Assessment for the Certification of Educators (GACE). ACTFL offers nationally-accepted oral and written language assessments known as the Oral Proficiency Interview (OPI) and Writing Proficiency Test (WPT). These assessments are approved in Georgia for permits and for language certificates for which no other Georgia content assessment has been developed. Conduct of the OPI and WPT, which must be administered by a certified examiner from ACTFL, is arranged and coordinated by Language Testing International. The validation of passing levels of proficiency is the responsibility of the applicant and the employing LUA. Contact information for scheduling the ACTFL is available at <http://www.languagetesting.com/academic-services>.

(c) The GaPSC-accepted assessments for foreign language fields are as follows:

<u>ROMAN-BASED ALPHABET</u>		<u>NON-ROMAN BASED ALPHABET</u>	
French	(GACE)	Arabic	(ACTFL)
German	(GACE)	Chinese (Mandarin)	(ACTFL)
Italian	(ACTFL)	Farsi (Persian)	(ACTFL)
Latin	(GACE)	Hebrew	(ACTFL)
Portuguese	(ACTFL)	Japanese	(ACTFL)
Spanish	(GACE)	Korean	(ACTFL)
		Russian	(ACTFL)
		Swahili	(ACTFL)
		Turkish	(ACTFL)
		Urdu	(ACTFL)
<u>OTHER</u>			
American Sign Language	(GACE)		

1. The ACTFL assessments for Greek are not Greek (Classical), and therefore are not accepted for the Georgia Greek (Classical) Permit or Certificate.

2. At the time of this rule change, the WPT is not available in the language of Swahili. Until the WPT in this field is available, the OPI will meet assessment requirements for Swahili.

3. For the Roman-Based Alphabet ACTFL assessments, the passing proficiency level for the OPI and the WPT is "Advanced—Low."

4. For the Non-Roman Based Alphabet ACTFL assessments, the passing proficiency level for the OPI and the WPT is "Intermediate—High."

(9) Educational Interpreter Performance Assessment (EIPA).

(a) Applicants seeking licensure as an Educational Interpreter must meet assessment requirements outlined in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.16 EDUCATIONAL INTERPRETER LICENSE.

(10) Content Exemption Criteria.

(a) The GACE content assessment requirement may be exempted in the following circumstances:

1. Veteran out-of-state educators moving into Georgia and applying for initial certification who can verify that they have taught full-time on an out-of-state certificate for the last five (5) academic years prior to application may be eligible according to the requirements detailed in GaPSC Rule 505-2-.24 SPECIAL GEORGIA REQUIREMENTS. Experience must be earned in the same field for all five (5) years and the field of certification indicated on the professional out-of-state certificate;

2. Educators holding a valid National Board for Professional Teaching Standards (NBPTS) certification in the specific certificate field, with the exception of the Middle Grades Generalist field are exempted from the content assessment requirement. The NBPTS Middle Grades Generalist field does not exempt the GACE Middle Grades content assessments;

3. Out-of-state professional certificate holders applying for initial Georgia certification who have passed the out-of-state content assessment required for issuance of the out-of-state certificate field; or

4. Individuals seeking certification in a field for which the GaPSC has not adopted a content assessment.

(11) Previous State-Approved Assessments.

(a) Georgia honors passing scores on previous state-approved Georgia assessments that are passed during the validity period for those assessments. The following are previous Georgia state-approved assessments:

1. Georgia Teacher Certification Test (TCT):

(i) The TCT was the first content assessment required for Georgia certification effective July 1, 1978, through June 30, 1997;

(ii) Individuals who obtained a passing score on the Special Education Professional Knowledge TCT assessment at the time it was required now meet the certification assessment requirement for the fields of Special Education Adapted Curriculum (P-12) and Special Education General Curriculum (P-12); and

(iii) The GaPSC will accept passing scores on a TCT assessment taken in a broad field area (Science or Social Science) to award certification in the comparable field currently issued.

2. Praxis Series:

(i) The Praxis Series replaced the TCT effective July 1, 1997;

(ii) For Georgia certification candidates in the field of Speech and Language Pathology, the Praxis II Speech and Language Pathology Assessment (Test 0330) will remain the required assessment as it is accepted for national licensing with the American Speech-Language-Hearing Association (ASHA). The passing score may be found at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/passingscores.aspx>;

(iii) The GaPSC accepts a passing score on the Praxis Paraprofessional Assessment taken before June 30, 2007; and

(iv) The GaPSC accepts passing scores on the required Georgia Praxis assessment in Educational Leadership (Test 0410) on or before March 15, 2008.

3. The GACE replaced the Praxis Series for most fields on September 1, 2006; however, the GaPSC accepts passing scores on the required Georgia Praxis assessment taken in its entirety on or before March 5, 2007, except in the field of performance-based Educational Leadership. The GACE Performance-based Educational Leadership assessment is required for educators completing performance-based educational leadership programs [See 7(a) and 7(b)].

4. The School Leaders Licensure Assessment

(i) The GaPSC accepts passing scores on the Praxis School Leaders Licensure Assessment (Test 1010) taken on or after July 1, 2005, through March 15, 2008.

5. Georgia Paraprofessional Assessment

(i) The Georgia Paraprofessional Assessment was administered July 2002 and November 2002, and was replaced by the Praxis Paraprofessional Assessment.

(12) Duplicate Score Reports.

(a) The GaPSC, as a courtesy to the state's educators, can provide certain official test score information for those assessments whose scores are otherwise not retrievable. The GaPSC does not charge for the retrieval, validation, or mailing of the score. Complete information on how to request test scores can be accessed at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/testScoreRequest.aspx>.

1. Test Scores available from GaPSC:

(i) Teacher Certification Test (TCT) and Georgia Paraprofessional assessments regardless of score report date.

(ii) Praxis I and Praxis II assessments with a score report dated more than ten (10) years ago.

2. For Praxis scores within the past ten (10) years, contact the administering agency, Educational Testing Service (ETS). Complete contact information is provided at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/testScoreRequest.aspx>.

3. For any GACE scores, examinees must contact the appropriate testing Supplier for the GACE program. Complete contact information is provided at <http://www.gapsc.com/EducatorPreparation/Assessment/testScoreRequest.aspx>.

(13) Highly Qualified Assessment Requirements

(a) For complete highly qualified requirements, including assessment, please refer to Section II of the Title II, Part A LEA Handbook.

(b) For highly qualified questions beyond what is provided in the Title II, Part A LEA Handbook, please refer to the appropriate contact information provided at www.gapsc.com.

Authority O.C.G.A. 20-2-200