

TSPC Alternatives to Basic Skills Tests (for all educators)

If an applicant for Oregon licensure has failed any section of the basic skills tests (PRAXIS I; CBEST; WEST-B; or NES: EAS) in reading, writing or mathematics at least once; the applicant may substitute a sequence of three transfer level Oregon college courses in each section failed. The basic skills requirement may also be met by a combination of any one of the testing options or by the coursework listed below. *(Please note that a regionally-accredited or foreign equivalent doctorate degree waives the basic skills test.)* (OAR 584-036-0080 and -0082)

The courses must be completed after failing the basic skills test and must be completed for credit with a grade of "B" or better to qualify for waiver of the test.

Prior to registering for the courses, the applicant must contact the counseling center at the college and secure specific advice pertaining to enrollment and admission into the approved courses and sections. The courses may be challenged through the institution's course challenge or credit by examination procedure when the candidate possesses the skills and knowledge that the courses are designed to develop.

All courses which are challenged or in which credit is earned shall be reported to TSPC only on official transcripts.

Courses may be taken at any Oregon accredited community, private, or public college or university. Examples of approved courses are listed below. Please note that if a set of courses is NOT mentioned below: *Failure to obtain TSPC pre-approval prior to enrollment or admission to the coursework will nullify the credit.*

(a) READING: Nine (9) quarter or six (6) semester hours of any reading course with the prefix "RD" that is 100 level or above. Examples include but are not limited to: RD 115 Accelerated Reading Tactics I; RD 116 Accelerated Reading Tactics II; RD 120 Critical Thinking and Reading.

(b) WRITING: Nine (9) quarter or six (6) semester hours of any writing course with the prefix "WR" that is 100 level or above. Examples include but are not limited to: WR 115 Introduction to Composition; WR 121 English Composition; WR 122 English Composition; WR 123 English Composition.

(c) MATHEMATICS: Nine (9) quarter or six (6) semester hours of any reading course with the prefix "MATH" that is 100 level or above. MATH 191 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers; MATH 192 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers; MATH 193 Mathematics for Elementary Teachers; MATH 211 Foundations of Elementary Mathematics; MATH 212 Foundations of Elementary Mathematics; MATH 213 Foundations of Elementary Mathematics.

TSPC Alternatives to NES/ORELA and PRAXIS II Tests (for teachers only)

Applicants for any endorsement on a teaching license may petition TSPC for alternative assessment in lieu of passing a subject-matter test when all of the following conditions have been met (OAR 584-052-0030). The applicant:

- (a) Has taken the appropriate subject-matter test at least twice without passing;
- (b) One test must have been taken within the last calendar year;
- (c) Submitted an application for alternative assessment in the form and manner required by the commission; and
- (d) Has paid a fee of \$100 for the assessment:

All evidence must be submitted to TSPC at least four weeks prior to the commission meeting in order to be considered. The Commission reserves the right to accept late applications for submission only when extenuating circumstances have been demonstrated and Commission staff reasonably can complete the evaluation prior to the commission meeting.

Alternative assessment applications and instructions are available at:

<http://www.tspc.state.or.us/pdf/0055.pdf>
<http://www.tspc.state.or.us/pdf/0056.pdf>

<http://www.tspc.state.or.us/pdf/0057.pdf>
<http://www.tspc.state.or.us/pdf/0058.pdf>

Please note that EC/EL teachers completing the alternative assessment process for the ORELA: MSE test may be eligible for a teaching license but they will not be considered "highly qualified" to teach multiple subjects.