

SAGU TEACHER CERTIFICATION TESTING POLICIES

Teacher certification exams are an essential component of the SAGU Teacher Education program. Our certification track teacher education programs are designed to prepare students to be successful in the field of education; and, that success includes successful completion of the TExES certification exams.

The Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES) is administered by Educational Testing Services (ETS) on behalf of the Texas Education Agency. There are many different TExES exams, and which ones students take is determined by the certification they are seeking. In general, students take at least two exams, the Professional and Pedagogical Responsibilities (PPR) and the content area exam (Social Studies 7-12, English Language Arts 7-12, Core Subjects EC-6, Music EC-12, Physical Education EC-12, Theatre Arts EC-12). The passing score on any of the TExES exams is a 240 out of a possible 300. Students register with ETS for their exams for a cost of \$135 per test. As of September 1, 2015, state law limits testing attempts to 5 times per exam. If an exam has not been passed after five time, that candidate is no longer permitted to take that exam.

Our goal as a Teacher Education department is to help students be completely prepared to pass exams on the first attempt. We provide students with preparation materials and opportunities for practice before sending students to sit for exams with the ETS. All students must go through an approval process before registering for exams.

Approval for Exams

Before approval can be given for any TExES exam, students must demonstrate proficiency in the subject area and readiness for the exam. Student may demonstrate this by meeting one of the following criteria:

- Successful completion of appropriate Representative form with a score of 80% or above
- Completion of Representative form with a score of 70-79% -AND- Completion of Intervention Plan as assigned by TExES coordinator. Documentation of completion of intervention plan will be required and detailed in the plan. Intervention plan may include a requirement of online tutoring or live workshops from contracted sources that may require additional payment by the student.

If a student fails to achieve a 70% on their initial attempt on a Representative form, a Remediation Plan will be provided by the TExES coordinator. The remediation plan may include a requirement of online tutoring or live workshops from contracted sources that may require additional payment by the student. After students have completed remediation plan, with documentation, they will have opportunity to retake the Representative form prior to testing approval.

Academic Testing Year and Timing of Testing

The goal of our program is for students to be finished with all certification requirements upon graduation. To that end, we strive to help students be finished with testing requirements prior to the student teaching semester. Beginning in the Spring 2015 semester, students applying for student teaching in the following semester must have attempted all required Representative forms. Students are strongly encouraged to have taken their exams with ETS prior to student teaching as well.

The academic testing year for first-time test takers will begin on September 1 of each year and end on April 30 of each year. Students taking an exam with ETS for the first time must test during the specified time frame. The time frame of May 1 – August 31 will be available for retesting in the event that a student does not pass an exam. If a student does not pass a TExES exam administered by ETS, they must wait 45 days before retesting (state-mandated waiting period). Students are strongly encouraged to retest as soon as possible after the 45 day wait period. The TExES Coordinator is available for consultation and study planning in this event.