

Praxis Information

In order to obtain a license to practice as an educator in the state of Mississippi, all prospective teachers, administrators and instructional support personnel must achieve Mississippi's minimum qualifying passing score on the state's required licensing assessment(s) as appropriate: Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Praxis Core) (or attain a composite score of at least 21 on the ACT or SAT equivalent), Praxis Subject Assessment, and Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT) assessment, as outlined in the current version of the *Guidelines for Mississippi Educator Licensure K-12*. Please remain mindful that the assessment serves as one criterion in the multi-step licensing process. Please refer to the current guidelines to review all criteria for the respective licensure area of interest.

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs)

- What do the Praxis Core, Praxis Subject Assessments, and the Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching tests measure?
 - ⇒ The **Praxis Core** assessments measure academic skills in reading, writing and mathematics. These comprehensive assessments measure the skills and content knowledge of candidates entering teacher preparation programs.
 - ⇒ **Praxis Subject Assessments** measure general and subject-specific content knowledge needed when beginning teaching.
 - ⇒ The **Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)** test measures different aspects of pedagogy, including learning theory and classroom management.

- Who administers the Praxis?

The Educational Testing Service (ETS) administers the Praxis Core, Praxis Subject Assessments, and Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching assessments.

- What are the required Praxis Assessments and minimum qualifying passing scores for Mississippi?

<https://www.ets.org/praxis/ms/test-takers/plan-your-test/certification.html>

Mississippi Educator Career Continuum Archive (MECCA)

<https://mecca.mdek12.org>

Additional Information Regarding the Non-Traditional Pathway:

All programs have the following components:

- ⇒ Testing
- ⇒ Training program or coursework
- ⇒ One-year teaching internship

Steps for alternate route certification:

- ◇ Decide what subject and age level you prefer to teach. This decision will help you choose which alternate route program will work for you.
- ◇ Choose an alternate route program. Many candidates choose a program based on these criteria:
 - geographical location of the program
 - subject areas offered
 - cost and time commitment
 - internship requirements
 - grade level
 - your personal academic skills and professional background
- ◇ Once your testing is complete, you will enroll in an alternate route program and complete the required training or coursework. You will then be ready for your initial alternate license and internship. Submit a completed application through the MECCA licensure system. Your application must include an official transcript showing a bachelor's degree (non-education), original testing scores, and proof of alternate route program enrollment.
- ◇ The internship is your first year of teaching. Mentoring will be provided during the internship. You will be paid based on your bachelor's degree status as a first-year teacher. The internship period will be provisional based upon the successful completion of the school year.
- ◇ Upon completing the internship, you can apply for a Five-year, standard teaching license. Submit a completed licensure application and proof of internship completion through the MECCA licensure system.



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EDUCATION

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Mississippi Department of Education
P.O. Box 771
Jackson, MS 39205-0771
Educator Licensure Related Information: 601-359-3483
teachersupport@mdek12.org

Traditional Pathway: Teacher Education Degree

A five-year educator license is issued to applicants meeting all licensing requirements and completing a state approved or National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) or Council for the Accreditation for Educator Preparation (CAEP) approved teacher education program from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning . Subject areas vary by institution.

Requirements for Five-year Standard Educator License:

1. Bachelor's degree or higher in Elementary, Secondary, or Special Education with documentation of completion of student teaching from a state approved or NCATE/CAEP accredited program from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher education
2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) or achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination or minimum GPA of 3.0 on a minimum of 60-hours of course credit as established by the State Board of Education
3. Praxis Subject Assessment
4. Praxis: Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT)
5. Foundations of Reading – Elementary and Special Education only

Institutions offering approved Educator Preparation Programs :

Alcorn State University
Belhaven University
Blue Mountain Christian University
Delta State University
Jackson State University
Mississippi College
Mississippi State University
Mississippi University for Women
Mississippi Valley State University
Rust College
Tougaloo College
University of Mississippi
University of Southern Mississippi
William Carey University

Alternate Pathway: Master of Art in Teaching

Subject Areas Available:

Art (K-12), Biology (7-12), Business (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese(K-12), Computer Science (7-12)*, Economics (7-12), English (7-12), Elementary Education (4-6 and K-6) French (K-12), German (K-12), Health (K-12), Home Economics (7-12), Latin (K12), Library Media (K-12), Music (K-12), Marketing (7-12), Math (7- 12), Mild/Moderate Disabilities (7-12 and K-12) Physics (7-12), Physical Education (K-12), Social Studies (7-12), Spanish (K-12), Speech Communications (7-12)

Program Entrance Requirements:

1. Bachelors degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning
2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) OR achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination OR verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit established by the State Board of Education
3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test)
4. Foundations of Reading exam—Elementary Ed. (4-6) and Elementary Ed (K-6) only

Requirements for the Three -year Alternate Route License:

1. Complete program entrance requirements
2. Complete required pre-teaching courses = 9 hours

Requirements for the Five-year Alternate Route License:

1. Met Three-year Alternate Route requirements
2. Six hours of coursework to include an internship

AND (IF APPLICABLE)

3. Eighteen hours of additional Master of Arts in Teaching coursework required for either an Elementary Education K-6 or Mild/Moderate Disability K-12 license.

The Foundations of Reading exam is required to obtain a license in Mild/Moderate Disability K-12.

(Computer Science is only offered at Mississippi State University.

For the most up-to-date licensure guidelines, please visit:
<https://www.mdek12.org/licensure>

Alternate Pathway: Teach Mississippi Institute

Subject Areas Available:

Art (K-12), Biology (7-12), Business (7-12), Chemistry (7-12), Chinese(K-12), Economics (7-12), English (7-12), French (K-12), German (K-12), Health (K-12), Home Economics (7-12), Latin (K12), Library Media (K-12), Music (K-12), Marketing (7-12), Math (7- 12), Physics (7-12), Physical Education (K-12), Social Studies (7-12), Spanish (K-12), Speech Communications (7-12)

Program Entrance Requirements:

1. Bachelor's degree from a regionally/nationally accredited institution of higher learning
2. Twenty-one (21) ACT (or SAT equivalent) OR achieve a qualifying passing score on the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators examination OR verification of 3.0 overall GPA on a baccalaureate transcript or last 60 hours course credit established by the State Board of Education
3. Praxis Subject Assessment (Specialty Area Test)

Requirements for Three-year Alternate Route License:

- 8–Week training session through Division of Outreach and Continuing Education at University of Mississippi

Requirements for 5-year Alternate Route License:

1. Met Three-year Alternate Route requirements
2. Completion of one-year internship period with mentoring and induction program in local school district
3. Recommendation by local school district