

Praxis II updates

Since the enactment of the federal legislation, **No Child Left Behind**, there have been a number of changes in requirements for the Praxis II Specialty Examinations for North Carolina initial licensure. Previously, passing scores on the relevant Praxis II Specialty Examinations were required for virtually all teaching fields before the University could recommend candidates for the NC Teaching License. Currently, the Praxis II requirements for candidates in initial licensure programs (Baccalaureate, Graduate Certificate in Teaching, or Master of Arts in Teaching: Phase One) focus on these three fields: **Elementary Education, Special Education, and Teaching English as a Second Language.**

Requirements for students before applying for licensure

Praxis II exams are no longer required for every licensure field; however, they are required for the following students before applying for initial licensure (Standard Professional I license):

- All elementary education majors (B.A., Graduate Certificate, or M.A.T. Phase One)
- All special education majors (B.A., Graduate Certificate, or M.A.T. Phase One)

Praxis II exams are required for anyone seeking a Standard Professional I license in a subject field for which they have earned fewer than 24 credit hours in that specific field.

- For UNC Charlotte students, this rule applies to the *Teaching English as a Second Language* program within either the Master of Arts in Teaching: Phase One or the Graduate Certificate in Teaching.

UNC Charlotte candidates who are required to take a Praxis II exam are encouraged to complete the exam during the student teaching/ graduate internship semester so that the application for the North Carolina Teaching License can be submitted to the NC Department of Public Instruction as expeditiously as possible.

Requirements for lateral entry teachers

Praxis II exams are required for lateral entry teachers in order to progress from the provisional license (3-year maximum employment period) to the Standard Professional I license and continue their employment as a teacher.

Opportunities for teachers

A teacher already holding a Standard Professional I license in any teaching area may add another Standard Professional I license in an additional teaching area by passing the Praxis II exams required for that teaching area. (Note: Praxis II exams do not exist for all teaching areas.)

Teachers holding the B-K license who wish to teach in kindergarten may take the Praxis exam #022 to become “highly qualified.”

Praxis II exams are one option for demonstrating a portion of the required competencies to progress from initial (Standard Professional I license) to continuing licensure (Standard Professional II license) after three years of successful teaching.

For information about the Praxis II examinations

Please visit the Teacher Education Advising and Licensure Office (Suite 119 of the College of Education Building) or visit this website: www.ets.org/praxis .