



Five Things You **NEED TO DO** Before You Take the NYS Teacher Certification Exams

All teacher education students need to take teacher certification exams in order to get certified in New York State. While there are exceptions by program, students generally need to pass three exams – the EAS, edTPA, and a content test specific to your content area– in order to get certified. These exams are challenging. Don't waste your time and money by having to retake exams. Make time to prepare!

Here are **five** things you need to do to prepare to pass the certification exams:

1) **Learn about the Exam Content**

Start by reading through the **exam frameworks**:

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_PrepFramework.html

which contain information on the number of questions, scoring structure and exam content for each of the exams.

Interested in a fast overview? **CUNY's YouTube channel** has 15 minute webinars on the new exams and study strategies to help you prepare.

<https://www.youtube.com/playlist?list=PLM0Ajq8FKzymCUgIF8jZujpG0Pe74k-yS>

2) **Take advantage of free test prep resources**

Join CUNY's Teacher Education Organization in **Blackboard** to access free preparation resources, such as test taking strategies, web-based modules and key vocabulary.

<http://www.cuny.edu/academics/programs/teachered/examsupport/CUNYExamsSupportonBlackboard9.2.14.pdf>

Review **Computer-Based Testing modules** so you feel confident about taking the new computer-based tests.

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_CBTutorials.html

3) **Practice, practice, practice!**

Go through the free sample questions provided in the state's **study guides**. Read over the scoring rubrics that are included so you know what to include in your written responses.

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_PrepStudyGuide.html

Want even more practice? Purchase a full-length **practice test**.

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/PageView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/GENRB_NYSTCEPractice.html

4) Plan Ahead

Give yourself enough time to study and practice before the day of your test. Some **testing centers** fill up quickly,

<https://wsr.pearsonvue.com/testtaker/registration/SelectTestCenterProximity/NES?conversationId=408390>

so be sure to **register** at least 30 days before you want to take the test!

<https://www.nystce.nesinc.com/App/SignInForm.aspx?ReturnUrl=%2fApp%2fRegister%2fIdentityConfirmation.aspx>

5) Stay Informed

Talk to your department to get up-to-date information and learn about the additional resources they provide. New resources and information will also be posted through our **Teacher Education website**, so check this site often.

<https://www2.cuny.edu/academics/academic-programs/teacher-education-programs/overview/>

Even before you're certified, you can submit the **NYC DOE New Teacher Application**. Once you submit a complete application, you'll have access to DOE hiring supports, events and outreach. Be thoughtful in your essays and take time with your application. The DOE also has a preferred resume format, so be sure to access the resources you need to make your application strong.

<http://teachnyc.net/how-to-apply/application-and-hiring-process#anchor2>

Have other questions about the exams, certification or hiring process?

Email our CUNY Teacher Education team at Teacher.Education@cuny.edu

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