

Psych / Special Ed Majors Guide to the New York State Teacher Certification Exams
(Required even if you never intend to teach in New York State)

Which tests do I take? <i>(See descriptions on reverse)</i>	How do I get ready?	When should I take them?
ALST Academic Literacy Skills Test	ENG 120, Writing for College FYS 101, First Year Seminar	As soon as you complete these courses; preferably shortly after freshman year
EAS Educating All Students Test	EDUC 101, Foundations of Education PSYC 207, Exceptional Child PSYC 317, Child Development EDUC 350, Teaching Language Arts EDUC 351, Literacy, Learning & the Arts in Social Studies Curriculum EDUC 373, Principles of Instruction	As soon as you complete these courses, in sophomore or junior year
CST, Multi-Subject Content Specialty Test, for Childhood Education	EDUC 241 and EDUC 242, Methods for Teaching Math and Methods for Teaching Science OR EDUC 243 and EDUC 244, STEM 1 and STEM 2 EDUC 351, Literacy, Learning & the Arts in Social Studies Curriculum	As soon as you complete these courses, typically in the junior year
CST, Disabilities Content Specialty Test, for Special Education	PSYC 372, Assessment of Educational Disabilities EDUC 373, Principles of Instruction for Students with Disabilities EDUC 374, Curriculum Strategies for Students with Disabilities	As soon as you complete these courses, typically in the junior year
edTPA Teacher Performance Assessment	This is a culminating assessment that measures knowledge and skills developed throughout the entire teacher certification program. It is previewed in PSYC 479, the Ed Psych Seminar, and guidance is offered during student teaching.	Senior year, during student teaching, and if possible during the first placement

You take the first four tests via computer, at a secure test site; each costs \$150 and up.

For the fourth, which costs \$300, you submit an extensive portfolio that includes two video clips of your teaching.

To find a test site and date, to register, and to access practice tests, go to

http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY17_testsites.asp?pagetype=CBT

(or just Google New York State Teacher Certification Exams)

Academic Literacy Skills Test - ALST (210 minutes)

This test consists of selected-response items, followed by focused constructed-response items and an extended writing assignment based on the critical analysis of authentic texts and graphic representations of information addressing the same topic. Each item requires analysis of complex literary or informational texts.

Educating All Students Test – EAS (135 minutes)

This test consists of selected-response items and constructed-response items. Each constructed-response item will share scenario-based stimulus material with several selected-response items. Topics covered are diversity, ELL, special education, teacher responsibilities, and school-home relationships

Content Special Test – CST: Multi-Subject

This assessment consists of three parts;

Part One: Literacy and English Language Arts; (120 minutes)

Part Two: Mathematic; (135 minutes)

Part Three: Arts and Sciences (60 minutes)

Candidates are required to achieve a score that meets or exceeds a separate performance standard for each part.

Parts One and Two each consist of selected-response items and one extended constructed-response item. The constructed-response item, designed to measure candidates' pedagogical content knowledge, is scenario-based and requires an extended written response based on the analysis of multiple samples of student-based evidence.

Part Three consists of selected-response items only.

Content Special Test – CST: Special Education (195 minutes)

This test consists of selected-response items and one extended constructed-response item. Both types of items measure content knowledge and pedagogical content knowledge. The constructed-response item is scenario-based and requires the analysis of one or more artifacts (e.g., samples of student work, assessments, an excerpt from an Individualized Education Program form, teacher notes).

edTPA

The edTPA is a portfolio-based assessment designed to assess practice-based skills that impact student achievement. There are three major tasks: Planning, Instruction and Assessment; candidates completing the Childhood assessment also have a fourth task based on mathematics instruction. To complete the edTPA candidates submit descriptions of their instructional contexts, lesson plans covering a 3 – 5 day learning sequence, videotapes of brief portions of those lessons, instructional materials and samples of student work, student assessments, feedback to students, and detailed analyses and reflections on the lessons.

NOTE: “Selected response” means multiple choice; ‘constructed response” usually means an essay of 200 – 300 words in 2 to 3 paragraphs; “extended written response” usually means an essay of about 600 words in 4 – 6 paragraphs.