

Frequently Asked Questions Regarding the TExES Exams

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When do I take my TExES exams?

I have not yet taken my state TExES PPR exam, but I want to take it. So, how do I prepare myself to do well on the exam?

I have not yet taken my state TExES content exam, but I want to take it. So, how do I prepare myself to do well on the exam?

Do I need to take a practice TExES exam?

I have heard that I must take my TExES exams before I can student teach. Is this true?

When do I take my TExES exams?

You should take your TExES exams as early as possible in your teacher education program, but you must wait, at least, until you have been officially admitted to the teacher education program. In general, you should take your content exam first rather than the PPR, as you will have taken many of the classes in your content field early in your college program and you will not take your professional education classes until your last two years. Taking your exams as early as possible will insure that you have plenty of time to pass them before you graduate. Graduating without passing your TExES exams will prevent you from receiving your teacher certification. You must have approval from TWU before the state will allow you to register for a TExES exam, if you are not yet a certified teacher. Taking an actual state TExES exam is quite expensive, so we want to help you be prepared to pass the exam on your first attempt. For that reason there are a few steps you will need to complete before TWU will approve you to take a TExES exam. Go to [TWU Requirements for TExES Exams](#) for information on those steps.

I have not yet taken my state TExES PPR exam, but I want to take it. So, how do I prepare myself to do well on the exam?

There is no one set and proven way to guarantee that you will do well on your state PPR exam. But, here is a process that has worked well for others.

1. Go to the TExES PREP Center Blackboard site, click on PREP Workshops and view the three short videos in the folder "Understanding the Land of TExES."
2. Register for a practice TExES exam by clicking on the link on the TExES PREP Center website.
3. Before you take your practice exam go to the Blackboard site again and view the five short videos on Mastering the TExES PPR exam.
4. Take your practice exam and, once you get your results, review where you did well and where you did poorly.
5. If you did not do well at all on the exam, say below 60 percent, do one or more of the following:

- a. Come into the PREP Resource Center, 218 Stoddard Hall, and request to do a PREP Analysis of the EC-12 PPR
 - b. Come into the PREP Resource Center and check out a review book and spend about an hour a day for two weeks studying it.
 - c. Register for and attend one of the face-to-face PPR workshops on the TWU campus.
 - d. Go to the Blackboard site and take one of the online review exams under the Practice Exams link.
 - e. Consider retaking the practice exam after doing one or more of the above to see if your score improves.
6. After taking the practice exam (either once or twice, depending on your situation as described above) come into the PREP Resource Center and request to do a PREP Review. This will allow you to see the actual questions on the practice exam and receive specific feedback on your correct and incorrect answers. You may also want to do one or more of the activities described in 5a through 5e above just to prepare yourself a little better.
 7. Register for and take your state PPR exam.

I have not yet taken my state TExES content exam, but I want to take it. So, how do I prepare myself to do well on the exam?

As with the PPR exam, there is no one set and proven way to guarantee that you will do well on your content exam, either. But, there are certainly some steps you can take to considerably improve your performance.

- If you haven't done so yet, go to the TExES PREP Center Blackboard site, click on PREP Workshops and view the three short videos in the folder "Understanding the Land of TExES."
- Register for your practice TExES content exam by clicking on the link on the TExES PREP Center website.
- If you are an EC-6 Generalist major, before you take your practice exam go to the Blackboard site again and view the eight short videos on Mastering the TExES EC-6 Generalist exam.
- If you are a 4-8 Generalist or Special Education go to the Blackboard site and view the PowerPoint on the 4-8 Generalist or the Special Education Supplemental exam.
- If you are majoring in some other content area, i.e. Mathematics, Life Science, Music, Social Studies, etc. view the PowerPoint "Mastering Your Content TExES Exam."
- Take your practice exam and, once you get your results, review where you did well and where you did poorly.
- If you did not do well at all on the exam, say below 60 percent, do one or more of the following:
 - Come into the PREP Resource Center and check out a review book on your content field and spend about an hour a day for two weeks studying it.
 - Go to the TExES website, www.texas.ets.org, and download the preparation manual on your content teaching field. Take the practice exam that's in the manual and grade it using the answer key provided. Go back and review each question, making sure you understand exactly why the correct answers are correct and the incorrect answers are incorrect. Identify any concepts on the exam that gave you problems and look them up online or in one of your college textbooks and review them.
 - Come into the PREP Resource Center and practice on the CertifyTeacher software program for your content field.
 - Consider retaking the practice exam after doing one or more of the above to see if your score improves.

- After taking (or retaking) the practice exam, come into the PREP Resource Center and request to do a PREP Review. This will allow you to go over the actual questions on your practice exam in order to make sure you understand the correct and incorrect answers.
- Register for and take your state content exam.

Do I need to take a practice TExES exam?

Any student requesting permission from TWU to take a state TExES exam must have completed at least one official TExES practice exam from TWU for that exam. For more information about official TWU practice exams and how to register for one, click on the link Register for a TExES Practice Exam on the TExES PREP Center website (www.twu.edu/texas-prep).

I have heard that I must take my TExES exams before I can student teach. Is this true?

Yes, in order to be approved for student teaching you must take your actual state TExES exams, both PPR and content. You aren't required to have passed the exams, but you must have taken them at least once. Of course, we want you to pass them and we're sure you would prefer to do that, also. That's why it's important for you to allow yourself enough time to take a practice TExES exam, and to complete any review and preparation activities that you may need to do in order to pass the exams.