

Testing Information

Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) is the testing program established by the Illinois legislature as a part of the Education Reform Act of 1985. This program measures a part of what is essential for an Illinois educator: a sound knowledge base in the basic skills and in the field of specialization covered by the license. It is designed to be one component in a comprehensive process of assessment of a candidate's qualifications that culminates in a licensure decision. Other aspects of the licensure process, including course work in an approved program, grades, and advisement received at the teacher preparation institution, contribute to the assessment of candidates.

At this site you can register and find study guides for the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), the Content Area Tests, and the Assessment of Professional Teaching tests. Internet address: www.il.nesinc.com

At this time, successful completion of three ILTS tests are required before a candidate can be licensed to teach in Illinois. These are the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), the Content Area Test, and the Assessment of Professional Teaching Test (APT). Descriptions of these tests and a suggested timeline for taking these are included below:

Retake Policy

"Subsequent to January 12, 2010, no individual may attempt to pass the same test more than five times in any combination of the two formats (computer-based or paper-based testing)."

If you wish to retake an ICTS test, you must complete the registration process and make the appropriate payment by the registration deadline for the new test date. With the exception of the Test of Academic Proficiency, when you register to retake a test, you must retake the entire test.

Please visit the ISBE Web site at www.isbe.net/licensure for the most recent information regarding certification requirements.

Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP): The State of Illinois requires successful completion of this test for admission to any Illinois teacher preparation program and for Licensure. A passing grade on this test is required to progress beyond the first eight credit hours in the program. This test assesses reading comprehension, language arts (grammar and writing), and mathematics skills. In lieu of the TAP test you may use a composite score of 22 or higher (within the last 10 years) on the ACT with Writing Test or a score of 1030 or higher (critical reading and mathematics) on the SAT test for admission to the Teacher Education Program.

Content-area Tests: This test will correspond to the Illinois-approved program which you are completing. (Elementary majors will take the Elementary/Middle Grades Content Test.) This test must be passed prior to the student teaching semester.

Assessment of Professional Teaching Test (APT): Successful completion of this test is required for all teacher candidates who are completing approved teacher education programs in Illinois. This test assesses candidates on the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and the language arts and technology standards for all teachers. There are four different levels of the APT: Early Childhood, Elementary, Secondary, and Special. Applicants must take a version of the APT appropriate to the certificate program being completed. This test should be taken before or during the student teaching semester and must be passed for program completion and licensure.