

Preparing for New York State Teacher Certification Exams (NYSTCE)

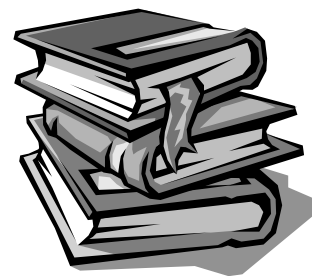
Everyone seeking initial certification in New York State must pass New York State Testing Certification Exams. Examination information including testing schedules and preparation information can be obtained at <http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/>.

The College at Brockport recommends that candidates take these exams during their certification program, not waiting until academic programs are completed to begin testing. A recommended schedule is:

- Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (LAST): After completing general education requirements, typically during the second semester of the sophomore year or first semester of the junior year.
- Assessment of Teaching Skills Written (ATS-W): After completing all pedagogy courses, typically just prior to, during or after student teaching.
- Content Specialty Tests (CST): At the completion of courses in the major or during or after student teaching.

Candidates are encouraged to prepare for New York State Teacher Certification Exams by:

1. Reviewing academic course materials including (for the LAST):
 - science and math
 - history and social sciences
 - art, music, and humanities
 - communication skills
 - written analysis and expression
2. Practice writing essays
3. Prepare with the help of test preparation guides and/or courses



NYSTCE Preparation Guides

Test preparation guides are available directly from the company that administers the New York State Teacher Certification Exams (NYSTCEs). This **FREE** guide includes test objectives, sample questions, sample written assignments, and sample written assignment evaluations. These can be obtained at http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY_viewSG_opener.asp

Commercial Preparation Guides

When purchasing a test preparation guide, please be careful to purchase the most recent edition. There are always modifications to the exams so be sure that you are preparing for the current test format. These test preparation guides range in cost from \$20-50. Preparation courses require additional expense.

Kaplan NYSTCE: Preparation Service and written guides:
<http://www.kaptest.com/Education/NYSTCE/nystce-home.html>.

CertEd at www.certed.com offers online test preparation courses

Barron's How to Prepare for the Last/ATS-W: How to Prepare for the Liberal Arts and Sciences Test Assessment of Teaching Skills-Written, Barrons Educational Series

NYSTCE Test Secrets Study Guide: NYSTCE Exam Review for the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations by NYSTCE Exam Secrets Test Prep Team

NYSTCE Test Flashcard Study System: NYSTCE Exam Practice Questions & Review for the New York State Teacher Certification Examinations by NYSTCE Exam Secrets Test Prep Team

Registration

Registration for these exams are online at www.nystce.nesinc.com.

Test Scores

A total test score of 220 represents the minimum passing score for each exam.

What happens if a candidate fails an examination?

All classroom teachers in New York State are required to pass the LAST, ATS-W and CST exams in order to become initially certified. If you fail an exam, you will need to retake the exam(s) that you failed. Examinees who wish to retake a test may do so at a subsequent test administration. If you wish to retake a test, you need to register at the NYSTCE website.

Prior to retaking the exam, consider ways to further prepare for it. Did you review course materials and/or preparation guides prior to the first exam? If not, please do so prior to taking the exam for a second time. If you did study for the first exam using guides and/or course materials, perhaps you would benefit from an online test preparation course.

If you know the area(s) in which you struggled on the first exam, you might also consider hiring a private tutor for that area or seeking help from college faculty.