

## **PROGRAM OVERVIEW**

House Bill 1581 states that beginning with the 2010 – 2011 school year, all institutions with The Oklahoma State System of Higher Education that offer elementary, early childhood and special education programs approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall incorporate into those programs the requirement that teacher candidates study the five elements of reading instruction which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. Teacher candidates enrolled in a program approved by the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation shall pass, prior to graduation, a comprehensive assessment to measure their teaching skills in the area of reading instruction. The University of Central Oklahoma, to the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation, shall report the assessment results annually.

## **DESCRIPTION OF THE TEST**

This test is criterion referenced and competency based. A criterion-referenced test is designed to measure a candidate's knowledge and skills in relation to an established standard of competency (criterion) rather than in relation to the performance of other candidates.

Oklahoma Reading Test (ORT) competencies were derived from the Oklahoma and national teaching reading competencies and knowledge in teaching the five elements of reading instruction. The test questions were matched to specific competencies and were verified as valid by panels of Oklahoma educators. Field-testing was conducted to ensure that the test materials were valid and reliable.

The Oklahoma Reading Test is designed to assess the knowledge and understanding of the teacher candidate in the teaching of the five elements of reading instruction, which are phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary, and comprehension. The ORT consists of 50 selected-response questions: 10 each over reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension and 20 over phonics/phonemic awareness.

## **Oklahoma Reading Test PASSING REQUIREMENTS:**

The statewide committee of university faculty who developed the test established a minimum passing score for The Oklahoma Reading Test. The University of Central Oklahoma Reading Committee agrees with the statewide passing criteria based on the recommendations from the Oklahoma Commission for Teacher Preparation in collaboration with the Oklahoma State Regents for Higher Education. The scaled minimum passing score for the Oklahoma Reading Test (ORT) is designed to reflect a comprehensive assessment to measure the teaching skills in the area of reading instruction of new teacher candidates in early childhood, elementary and special education.

You will need to earn a total score of 35 or higher on the Oklahoma Reading Test. Total test scores are reported using a range from 0 – 50, with a 70% as the minimum passing scaled score.

## **RETAKE THE ORT:**

An individual may retake the Oklahoma Reading Test as many times as necessary to pass. Examinees who wish to retake a test may do so by registration and payment.