

TESTING REQUIREMENTS

In July 1995, under the guidelines established by the legislature in House Bill 1549, the Office of Educational Quality Accountability (OEQA) assumed responsibility to develop and implement a competency-based assessment system for educator licensure/certification in the State of Oklahoma.

The Oklahoma certification examinations reflect state standards (Oklahoma Full-Subject Matter Competencies, Oklahoma General Competencies, core student standards) as well as current national standards.

As part of maintaining the assessment program, routine review and redevelopment assures the exams will be kept up-to-date and accurate. Constant monitoring ensures they also continue to measure educator knowledge and skill levels using the most current and widely accepted psychometric standards.

Testing information booklets with sample questions are available on the 3rd floor of the UCO library to assist in preparation for each of the certification tests described in this section. Information is also available from the OEQA website: <http://www.ok.gov/oeqa> and the National Evaluation System website: <http://www.ceoe.nesinc.com/>.

Three tests are required to pass with a minimum score of 240 to a maximum of 300.

1. **OGET – Oklahoma General Education Test** – critical thinking and general education knowledge. The OGET is an admission requirement for UCO’s Teacher Education Program.
The OGET is explicitly designed to help identify those examinees who have demonstrated the level of general education knowledge and skills required for entry-level educators in the state of Oklahoma. The OGET is comprised of approximately 100 selected response items and one constructed-response (performance) assignment.
2. **OSAT – Oklahoma Subject Area Test (OSAT)** – subject matter knowledge. The appropriate subject area test is required for Student Teaching/Internship.

Subject area tests match the certification categories currently approved by the State Board of Education and have been developed for use in the Certification Examination for Oklahoma Educators program. OCTP is dedicated to including performance components in all subject area tests.

3. **OPTE – Oklahoma Professional Teaching Exam** – professional knowledge and skill, PK-8 or 6-12.

The OPTE is designed to assess the professional knowledge and skills associated with the being of an entry-level educator in Oklahoma. In recognition of the differences in learning environment and appropriate instructional practice at various developmental levels. The OPTE is offered in two versions: PK-8 and 6-12.

- Teacher Candidates seeking Early Childhood or Elementary should take the PK-9 OPTE.
- Teacher Candidates seeking Secondary certification should take the 6-12 OPTE.
- Teacher Candidates seeking PK-12 certification (art, foreign languages, music, special education or physical education/health/safety) may take either OPTE.

The OPTE is comprised of approximately 75 selected-response items and three constructed-response (performance) items.

ADDITIONAL TESTING REQUIREMENTS

ORT – Oklahoma Reading Test – required for all Special Education majors only. The Oklahoma Reading Test is a comprehensive assessment to measure the knowledge and understanding of Teacher Candidates in the teaching of the five elements of reading instruction – phonemic awareness, phonics, reading fluency, vocabulary and comprehension. The ORT is comprised of 60 selected-response items. A total of 35 or higher is reported a grade of “Passing.” This represents a minimum passing scaled score of 70%. Teacher Candidates who wish to re-take the test may do so by contacting Teacher Education Services.

OPI – Oral Proficiency Interview – required for Modern Language Majors Only. Students seeking a degree in Modern Languages are required to demonstrate functional speaking ability in the OPI. This test measures how well a person speaks a language by comparing their performance of specific language tasks with the criteria for each of the ten proficiency levels described in the ACTFL Revised Proficiency Guidelines-Speaking, published by ACTFL in 1999.

For further information regarding the test and scheduling of interview please see the Department of Modern Languages, Literatures and Cultures, Thatcher Hall, Room 202.