

NEW YORK STATE TEACHER CERTIFICATION EXAMS (NYSTCE)

In order to be issued an **initial teacher certificate** in New York State, the New York State Education Department (NYSED) requires certificate applicants to take and pass a set of NYSTCE (see <http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/>). Successful completion of the NYSTCE is not required for completion of the teacher education program, but it is required for the issuance of the initial teacher certificate.

NYSED introduced significant changes to the NYSTCE program and there are different requirements depending on the date of completion of all certification requirements and application for the issuance of the initial teacher certificate.

For those who completed all certification requirements and applied for the issuance of the initial teacher certificate **on or before April 30, 2014**, the required NYSTCE were as follows:

- Assessment of Teaching Skills – Written (**ATS-W**): there were two versions, one elementary and one secondary
- Liberal Arts and Sciences Test (**LAST**)
- Content Specialty Test (**CST**): each certification area had its own CST, other than early childhood and childhood education for which there was one common CST referred to as the multi-subject
- Bilingual Education Assessment (**BEA**): the BEA was required only for those seeking the bilingual extension

For those who complete all certification requirements and apply for the issuance of the initial teacher certificate **on or after May 1, 2014**, the required NYSTCE are as follows:

- Academic Literacy Skills Test (**ALST**)
- Educating All Students (**EAS**) Test
- Educative Teacher Performance Assessment (**edTPA**): each certification area has its own edTPA
- Content Specialty Test (**CST**): each certification area has its own CST and the CSTs are being redeveloped according to a schedule set by NYSED (see http://www.nystce.nesinc.com/NY_annProgramUpdate.asp#TestSched), with the first redeveloped batch introduced during the fall 2014 semester
 - An important revision occurred to the multi-subject CST for early childhood and childhood wherein the multi-subject CST now has three parts (part 1: literacy and English language arts; part 2: mathematics; and part 3: arts and sciences), with unique parts 1 and 2 for each early childhood and childhood education and a common part 3 for both early childhood and childhood education.
- Bilingual Education Assessment (**BEA**): the BEA is required only for those seeking the bilingual extension

SAFETY NETS

In April 2014 and again in May 2015, the Board of Regents authorized a 'safety-net' for the **edTPA** that allows those who took and received a failing score on the edTPA to take the ATS-W in place of the edTPA; in other words, the ATS-W would be considered an equivalent substitution during the timeframe of the safety net (for details, see <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsedtpa.html>).

Also in May 2015, the Board of Regents authorized safety nets for the ALST, EAS, and the redeveloped CSTs.

- For the **ALST**, the safety net allows those who took and received a failing score on the ALST to be waived from this requirement if her/his institution of higher education attests that s/he demonstrated comparable skills to what is required by the ALST through course completion; in other words, the course(s) completed would be considered an equivalent substitution during the timeframe of the safety net (for details, see <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetsalst.html>).
- For the **EAS**, the safety net temporarily lowers the score required to pass the exam; in other words, during the timeframe of the safety net a score at or above the temporarily reduced minimum would be considered to be a passing score (for details, see <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetseas.html>).
- For the redeveloped **CSTs** (which became operational in September 2014, including the following: English language arts, gifted, library media specialist, literacy, mathematics, multi-subject early childhood, and multi-subject childhood), the safety net allows those who took and received a failing score on the redeveloped CST to take the corresponding predecessor CST in place of the redeveloped CST (for details, see <http://www.highered.nysed.gov/tcert/certificate/certexamsafetynetscst.html>).

Although the safety nets exist, our consistent message to students enrolled in the teacher education program has been as follows:

- *If you are pursuing a New York State initial teacher certificate, you should plan to successfully complete the required NYSTCE by passing them without relying on the available safety nets. You have the knowledge and skills to be able to pass these exams and you should prepare in a manner that positions you to be able to pass them. Additionally, in order to access a safety net, you must have first taken the exam and received a failing score. The exam must be scorable; in other words, you cannot submit a blank exam as it would be determined to be non-scorable. So, you should approach the exams with a plan to pass them so that you need not have to rely on the safety nets.*

PERFORMANCE SUMMARY

As a means to provide a fuller picture of how UB teacher education program completers have performed on the NYSTCE, below presents NYSTCE data for three years that cross the transition point from the old NYSTCE to the new NYSTCE. The data is presented according to the year students completed the program (e.g., a 2013-14 program completer has a degree award date of either February, June, or September 2014).

2013-14 Program Completers

	UB Exam Takers	UB Exam Passers	UB Passing Rate	Minimum Passing Score	Mean Score of UB Exam Takers
ALST	28	26	93%	520 (<i>max=600</i>)	542
EAS	28	28	100%	500 (<i>max=600</i>)	537
CST	39	37	95%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	252
edTPA	17	17	100%	2.73 (<i>max=5</i>)	3.18

Notes:

- The number of program completers decreased in 2013-14 as compared with previous years; plus, there were some program completers who completed all certification requirements and applied for the issuance of the initial teacher certificate on or before April 30, 2014 and therefore they were held to the older NYSTCE requirements and their NYSTCE data are not included here (however, it should be noted that the passing rate for this excluded group is 100%)
- For the ALST, as of the posting of this information it had not yet been determined whether those who took and failed the ALST could have the ALST waived via the safety net
- For the EAS, the minimum passing score of 500 represents the temporarily reduced minimum due to the safety net, with 520 being the minimum without the safety net
- For the CST, all 2013-14 program completers had taken the older version of the CSTs prior to their redevelopment
- For the edTPA, the minimum passing score is displayed as the average rubric score rather than the total score, as the total score required to pass varies depending on the number of rubrics in the edTPA (13 rubrics for classical and world languages, 18 rubrics for childhood education, and 15 rubrics for all other areas); an average rubric score of 3.20 is considered to be at the mastery level

2011-12 and 2012-13 Program Completers

	Year	UB Exam Takers	UB Exam Passers	UB Passing Rate	Minimum Passing Score	Mean Score of UB Exam Takers
LAST	2012-13	72	72	100%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	271
	2011-12	65	65	100%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	272
ATS-W	2012-13	71	71	100%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	272
	2011-12	64	64	100%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	275
CST	2012-13	73	73	100%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	260
	2011-12	64	64	100%	220 (<i>max=300</i>)	263