

Proof of Basic Skills for Students in Education Programs:

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requires all candidates for educator licensure to prove a minimum level of basic skills. Traditionally, this has been done by passing a “basic skills” test. Currently, ISBE allows several possible assessments to prove basic skills. North Central College requires all Education students to fulfill the proof of basic skills at the very beginning of the program and before taking any 200-level Education course. It is to your advantage to meet this requirement as soon as possible.

Proof of Basic Skills may be met by completing ONE of the following:

- ACT + Writing:
 - Tests taken **prior to 9/1/15**: composite score of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 19 on the combined English/Writing portion. The English/Writing subscore is not the same as the English score but is actually called “English/Writing” on the report.
 - Tests taken **9/1/15 to 9/9/16**: composite score of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 16 on the writing portion
 - Tests taken **9/10/16 and later**: composite score of 22 or higher and a minimum score of 6 on the writing portion
 - Passing composite and writing scores do not need to be earned on the same test date and may come from separate test dates.
 - Official ACT + Writing scores must be ordered and sent to the Illinois State Board of Education for verification. Go here for information:
<https://www.isbe.net/Documents/act-sat-testing-in-lieu-of-tap.pdf>

- SAT with writing:
 - SAT tests must have a writing component.
 - Tests taken **prior to 3/5/16**: Composite score of 1030 (critical reading + mathematics) and a minimum score of 450 on writing
 - Tests taken **3/5/16 and later**: composite score of 1110 (evidence-based reading and writing + mathematics = 1110 or higher) and a minimum score of 26 on writing and language
 - Official SAT with Writing scores must be ordered and sent to the Illinois State Board of Education. Go here for information:
<http://isbe.net/licensure/requirements/act-sat-testing-in-lieu-of-tap.pdf>

NOTE: Superscoring is available on ACT/SAT. ISBE will add the highest subject scores from each test and divide by the total number of tests for a composite score. Please email Licensure@isbe.net if interested in having tests superscored.

- Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP 400)
 - This is a 4-section test that can be taken on a single test date or spread out over multiple test dates. Once you pass a section, it remains a pass and you do not have to retake that section.
 - You can take the test one section at a time if you want to.
 - Multiple test dates and multiple test sites are available (several community colleges, Regional Offices of Education and other sites serve as test sites). Weekdays and Saturdays.
 - There is a 30-day waiting period between retakes of the same section.
 - Register by going to Illinois Licensure Testing System, <https://www.il.nesinc.com>
 - Scores will be sent automatically to ISBE.