

PRAXIS III® Overview

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What Is It?

Praxis III: Classroom Performance Assessments comprise a system for assessing the skills of beginning teachers in classroom settings. ETS developed Praxis III for use in teacher licensing decisions made by states or local agencies empowered to license teachers. Under the guidelines that govern its use, Praxis III may not be used for the purpose of making employment decisions about teachers who are currently licensed.

This direct classroom assessment recognizes the importance of the teaching context as well as the many diverse forms that excellent teaching can take. The Praxis III system utilizes a three-pronged method to assess the beginning teacher's evidence of teaching practice. This includes direct observation of classroom practice, review of documentation prepared by the teacher, and semi-structured interviews.

Praxis III is an assessment system, in that it is comprised of three separate, yet strongly interconnected components. Individually, each component is designed to augment the value of the assessment. Collectively, the system is aimed at gaining a thorough understanding of the teaching skills of a beginning teacher. Overall, Praxis III provides insights into pedagogical areas in which a teacher may benefit from additional development.

- **Component 1:** Framework of knowledge and skills for a beginning teacher that assess the teaching performance across all grade levels and content areas.
- **Component 2:** Instruments used by trained assessors to collect data, analyze, and score the teaching performance.
- **Component 3:** Training of assessors to facilitate consistent, accurate, and fair assessments of a beginning teacher.

Who Takes It and Why?

Beginning teachers residing and planning to teach in states that require Praxis III: Classroom Performance Assessments as part of the criteria for teacher licensing decisions have their teaching skills assessed in classroom settings, by trained assessors.

Where Do People Take It?

The Praxis III Classroom Performance Assessments are completed within the classroom setting.

Testing Format

The Praxis III Classroom Performance Assessments consist of a framework of knowledge and skills for a beginning teacher that contains 19 assessment criteria in four interrelated domains. These domains embrace the teaching and learning experiences of the beginning teacher, including:

- Organizing content knowledge for student learning (planning to teach)
- Creating an environment for student learning (the classroom environment)
- Teaching for student learning (instruction)
- Teacher professionalism (professional responsibilities)