Mastering the PRAXIS Core can be done — but preparation is necessary!

There are three components to the Praxis Core: reading comprehension, math, and writing. What is important to know about the PRAXIS CORE is that it tests knowledge and concepts that you might have mastered many years ago so refreshing yourself on that knowledge will be essential. There are six keys to success:

1) Familiarize yourself with the sections
   a. Reading comprehension: There are three content categories: key ideas and details; craft, structure, and language skills; and integration of knowledge and ideas. These are tested by reading passages of various lengths intended for the general public and answering questions about those passages.
   b. Math: The math portion covers numbers and quantity, algebra and functions, geometry and measurement, and statistics and probability. Build yourself a study guide that refreshes you on formulas, units of measurement, and order of operations. This section does include numeric entry questions where you have to enter the exact correct value (2 questions average) and multiple choice questions where you can select one or more correct choices (2 questions average). Additionally, there is a basic on-screen calculator that you can use which includes a square root button.
   c. Writing: This portion measures your ability to recognize correct standard written English through usage, sentence correction, revision in context, and research skills. The essay portion has two essays: argumentative where you respond to a topic by stating your position clearly and developing each key idea with one or more examples and a source-based essay where you need to examine two sources and convey complex ideas. Your score is a combination of the multiple choice section and the essays.

2) Understand the Scoring Scales

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Number of Questions</th>
<th>Amount of Time</th>
<th>SC Passing Score</th>
<th>Approximate Percentage Right Of Multiple Choice Questions to Pass</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Math</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>85 minutes</td>
<td>150</td>
<td>60%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Reading Comprehension</td>
<td>56</td>
<td>85 minutes</td>
<td>156</td>
<td>50%</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Writing</td>
<td>40 Multiple Choice &amp; 60 minutes for essays</td>
<td>100 minutes: 40 minutes &amp; 60 minutes for essays</td>
<td>162</td>
<td>65% (plus average essay scores)</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

3) Take a full-length practice test to consider how well you know the content in each area and provide yourself a baseline score. Although you might not want to know what your baseline score is, this is an important step in the process to help you identify how much effort and time you need to invest in order to pass. There are two free practice tests available via two different Library Databases:
   a. TERC
4) **Buy a Praxis Core book.** There are a few books that are updated to assist with the Praxis Core exam including the Learning Express book, which we recommend.

5) Make a study plan. Take your **study timeline** and divide it in half—with your practice test on one side and your actual test at the end. Plan to do one practice test in the middle to gauge how effective your studying has been.

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Practice Exam                                              Midway Exam                         Actual Exam

Focus on the portions of the test that you struggle with, not the portions you have already mastered. Realize that you can **use the tutoring services** of the CSL Math Lab to help with the Math portion and the CSL Writing Lab to help with Writing portion, and a **study skills appointment** can help with the Reading portion or to plan your preparation, including a study schedule and access to test materials. You can make an appointment by calling the CSL Front Desk at (843)953-5635.
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6) **Familiarize yourself with these test taking strategies.**

   a. Anticipate the answer. Use your hand to cover the answers and complete the statement in your own words. Go through the answers one at a time and choose the one that most closely matches yours.

   b. Don’t get stuck on one question. If you have a habit of doing that, you may need to assign times not only to sections, but also to individual questions.

   c. Follow your intuition; your first choice is probably right. Review answers; but don’t change them unless you are sure! Check the test carefully; look for missed questions.

**Tips Before, During, and After the Test**

**Before**

✓ Study actively – make study guides, flashcards, form a study group, etc.
✓ Ease test anxiety by doing practice tests in a test situation with time constraints
✓ Get a full night of sleep the night before the test
✓ Eat normal meals, exercise, and take breaks while preparing for the test

**The Day of the Test**

✓ Avoid thinking you need to cram just before, strive for a relaxed state of concentration
✓ Don’t go to the exam with an empty stomach & take a small snack with you
✓ Avoid speaking with any fellow students who have not prepared, express negativity, or will distract you

**During**

✓ Read the directions carefully
✓ Budget your test taking time
✓ Change positions to help you relax
✓ Control your anxiety with relaxation and breathing techniques
✓ If you go blank, skip the question and go on

**After**

✓ Once you are finished, stop thinking about the test and move on
✓ Don’t talk to anyone right after the test to “rehash” it
✓ Reward yourself for studying hard and completing the test