

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:

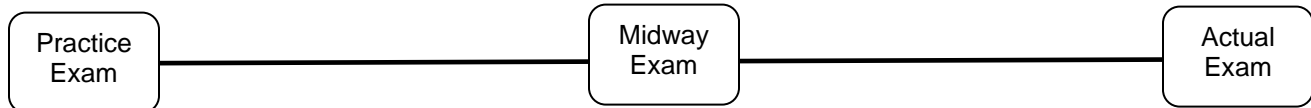
- 1) **View our Praxis Core video (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=TRgltI5206M>) on the CSL's YouTube channel and familiarize yourself with the sections, which are taken in this order on exam day:**
 - a. **Reading comprehension:** There are three content categories: key ideas and details; craft, structure, 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. Don't read the questions first. Just understand the passage and then tackle the questions.
 - b. **Math:** The math portion covers four content areas: 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. You CANNOT use a graphing calculator!
 - c. **Writing:** This portion measures your ability to recognize correct standard written English through usage, sentence correction, revision in context, and research skills. Additionally, 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 (the basic five paragraph essay) and a source-based essay where you need to examine two sources and convey complex ideas (structured best in four paragraphs with an introduction, source 1, source 2, and a conclusion). There is no spell-check or grammar-check in this section. Your score is a combination of the multiple-choice section and the essays.

2) Understand the Scoring Scales

	Number of Questions	Amount of Time	SC Passing Score	Approximate Percentage Right Of Multiple Choice Questions to Pass
Math	56	85 minutes	150	66%
Reading Comprehension	56	85 minutes	156	50%
Writing	40 Multiple Choice & 2 essays	100 minutes: 40 minutes & 60 minutes for essays	162	65% (plus average essay scores)



- 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 your baseline score, 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 five FREE practice tests available via two different Library Databases:
- TERC with Career Module (good first test to take)
 - Learning Express (accurate sections for reading and writing, math is not accurate)
- 4) **Buy a Praxis Core book.** There are a few books that are updated to assist with the Praxis Core exam including the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators by REA (currently just \$12.99 on Amazon), which we highly recommend. This book has four review chapters for each of the math content areas and several full-length practice tests.
- 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. Do 1 practice test in the middle to gauge progress.



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.

- 6) **Familiarize yourself with these test-taking strategies.**
- Anticipate the answer. Use your hand to cover the answers and complete the statement in your own words.
 - Don't get stuck on one question.
 - When you skip a question pick a placeholder "guess" answer in case you don't have time to come back to it. Time is your enemy on this test!
 - 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-like situation with time constraints
- ✓ Eat normal meals, exercise, and take breaks while preparing for the test and get a full night's sleep before

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 on 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 and budget your test taking time
- ✓ Change positions to help you relax
- ✓ 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