

## Testing Requirements for Teachers

Most states, including Maryland, have testing requirements as part of their teaching certification process. In general, there are two levels of testing: one is the basic skills level assessment, and the other is the subject-specific knowledge and teaching skills assessments.

To earn the Associate of Arts in Teaching (AAT) degree at Montgomery College, students must provide evidence of essential skills in reading, writing and mathematics. Students may meet the requirement in either of two ways:

- 1) Earn a minimum **cumulative grade point average of 3.0** on all coursework at the time of associate's degree completion. (No basic skills test required!)
- 2) Earn between a **2.75 and 2.99 cumulative GPA** AND present acceptable scores on one of the following state-approved **basic skills tests**: SAT, ACT, Praxis I PPST or Praxis Core Academic Skills Tests.
  - Some four-year schools in Maryland may still require students to pass a basic skills test before entering the professional portion of their teacher education program but most are honoring the 3.0 minimum GPA
  - The basic skills test is still required for acceptance into alternative certification programs, such as the ACET program.

### What score must I earn to meet the basic skills requirement?

The current accepted tests, with appropriate passing scores, are listed below:

- ACT composite score of 24 OR
- SAT (taken after January 1, 2019) total math and critical reading score of 1180.
- Praxis Core Academic Skills Tests, reading 156, writing 162, and mathematics 150 (must pass each part separately).

### What if I took an older version of the SAT or the Praxis I PPST test?

These scores are also acceptable:

- SAT score
  - (Taken from April 1995 – December 2018) Total math and verbal/critical reading score of 1100
  - (Take prior to April 1995) Composite math and verbal score of 1000
- Praxis I PPST (*taken before September 2014*): composite score of **527**

### When should I take my basic skills test if I have not already completed it?

Students who are recent high school graduates are encouraged to take the tests as soon as possible, as most of the content on the test will have been covered in their high school coursework. Students who feel they need to review should generally attempt either the SAT, ACT or Praxis Core after they have completed about 30 semester credits at MC, including their first math course.

	<b>ACT</b>	<b>SAT</b>	<b>Praxis Core</b>
Areas tested	Math, Reading, Science and English (Writing not required for AAT)	Critical Reading, Mathematics (Essay is optional and not required for AAT)	Math, Reading and Writing
Format	2 hours, 55 minutes for all four tests (Writing section is not included; one break)	70 Minutes per test section (No essay; short breaks between sections)	Math: 85 minutes Reading: 85 minutes Writing: 100 minutes for two essays
Price	\$50.50	\$47.50	Single test: \$90 Combined tests: \$150  *Fee waiver may be available for students on financial aid.
Passing score	24 Composite (combined score of the four tests)	1180 total on reading and math only (January 1, 2019 forward.)  (1100 prior to Dec. 2018 if you were in an AAT, BA, or MA teacher preparation program prior to January 1, 2019)	Math: 150 Reading: 156 Writing: 162 Must pass each test-no composite scores!
How often is test given?	Six times a year (September, October, December, February, April, June)	Seven times a year (October, November, December, January, March, May and June)	Individually scheduled; (Usually takes 2-4 weeks to get an appointment)
How do I register?	<a href="http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html">http://www.act.org/content/act/en/products-and-services/the-act/registration.html</a> Registration deadline: About a month before the testing date	<a href="https://sat.collegeboard.org/register">https://sat.collegeboard.org/register</a>  Registration deadline: About a month before the testing date	<a href="http://www.ets.org/praxis/register">http://www.ets.org/praxis/register</a>  Continuous test dates: Up to a week before the test
Are testing accommodations available?	Yes, for students with documented disabilities	Yes, for students with documented disabilities	Yes, for students with documented disabilities and students whose primary language is not English ( <i>PLNE</i> ).
How can I start to prepare?	<a href="http://cty.jhu.edu/talent/docs/2014ACTPreparing.pdf">http://cty.jhu.edu/talent/docs/2014ACTPreparing.pdf</a>	<a href="http://blog.prepscholar.com/whats-actually-tested-on-sat-reading-skills">http://blog.prepscholar.com/whats-actually-tested-on-sat-reading-skills</a>	Mathematics <a href="http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5732.pdf">http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5732.pdf</a> Writing <a href="http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5722.pdf">http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/5722.pdf</a> Reading <a href="http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/0204.pdf">http://www.ets.org/s/praxis/pdf/0204.pdf</a>
How does Montgomery College get my scores?	When you register, use this report code: MC: 5440	When you register, use this report code: MC: 5440	When you register, use this report code: MC: 5422

[http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/testing\\_info/praxis1.aspx](http://marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/testing_info/praxis1.aspx)