

# State Testing Requirements for Teacher Certification

It can be a bit confusing when teacher candidates begin to address all of the requirements necessary to graduate from Illinois State in teacher education and earn a teaching certificate from the State of Illinois. Sometimes these requirements can run together, become intertwined, and confuse the most able thinker. Do not be too hard on yourself if this has happened to you.

To make things worse, the requirements at both the institution level and the state level are also in a state of on-going change right now. It is important that teacher candidates stay abreast of the changes and make sure they know which requirements will impact them as they move through the teacher education program here at Illinois State. The following information is provided to assist teacher candidates in making sense out of these requirements.

**1) Graduation requirements and Certification requirements are two different things.**

We try to make sure that students meet all certification requirements while they progress through their teacher education programs. Sometimes the state will make a change that impacts our requirements at Illinois State and we have very little input into when and how that happens. Other times we make changes here at Illinois State in order to maintain a strong and rigorous program.

**2) Most of the tests that teacher candidates now take to progress through different gateways in our professional education programs are State of Illinois Certification Tests.** Right now this includes the Enhanced Basic Skills Test and the Content Area Test. Here at Illinois State we have placed these tests in our program at different gateways to assist teacher candidates in meeting those requirements.

**3) There is an Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) Test required of all teacher candidates who are issued a State of Illinois Teaching Certificate after October 1, 2003.** This means that all graduates will be required to take and pass the APT test before they can be issued their State of Illinois teaching certificate. This is not currently a graduation requirement. Students will not need to pass this test to graduate from Illinois State University. They will need to pass it to earn an Illinois Teaching Certificate, though.

Registration information and study guides are available at: [www.icts.nesinc.com](http://www.icts.nesinc.com)