

SMU Educator Preparation Program – Preparing for TExES Tests

While taking SMU coursework, you will be preparing for and taking the required Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TExES) tests. SMU requires passing scores on all required TExES tests **prior to student teaching, internship or practicum**. Before receiving approval to take a TExES test, you are to successfully pass a practice test. SMU is utilizing two external programs, **Certify Teacher** and **240 Tutoring**, to administer these practice tests. The platform you use will depend on the exams you are taking. Within **Certify Teacher** and **240 Tutoring**, you will be identified as an SMU student and will be included on the SMU Admin dashboard. Through the dashboard, the SMU administrator will view your progress and test results.

Overview

Focus on one TExES test at a time. Start with your content test. The two charts below show the **preferred order** from left to right with the required tests indicated in green. Once you pass one TExES test, prepare for the next.

First, take the Plan to Pass/initial diagnostic test and study: The results of the diagnostic test will show the competencies needing the most attention. Use the study materials, flashcards, and quizzes as instructed within each program.

Second, take the practice test: Take the test at a time and location of your choosing. A passing score of **80%** (260) at minimum is required. Although it may take a few attempts to pass, you'll know you are prepared for the TExES test. Academic honesty is always expected while taking practice tests. The practice test helps you succeed in passing the TExES test the first time!

Third, email Lexy Helfenstein: Send an email to ahelfenstein@smu.edu to let her know you **passed** the practice test! She will give approval in the TEA System for you to test and send instructions on how to register for the TExES test.

Certify Teacher or 240 Tutoring?

The certification you are pursuing will determine which of the two practice test programs you will use. Review the first column of the following two charts to know whether you'll engage with Certify Teacher or 240 Tutoring. If your certification subject test is not listed, please contact Lexy Helfenstein.

Certify Teacher	Content Test	Science of Teaching Reading (293)	PPR EC-12 (160)	English as a Second Language Supplemental** (154)	Bilingual Supplemental (164)	BTLPT (190)
391 - Core Subjects EC-6*	✓	✓	✓	✓		
211 - Core Subjects 4-8*	✓	✓	✓	✓		
391 - Core Subjects EC-6* w/ Bil Sup	✓	✓	✓		✓	✓
178- Art EC-12	✓		✓			
177 - Music EC-12	✓		✓			
158- Physical Education EC-12	✓		✓			
253 – Educational Diagnostician	✓					
151 – Reading Specialist	✓					

* A score of 260 (80%) on **each subject** of the test is required before taking the TExES test.

** The English Second Language (ESL) Supplemental test is highly recommended but not required for initial teacher certification.

If you would PREFER to use 240 Tutoring for any of the other tests above, you may! If you would like to discuss the pros and cons of each platform, please feel free to set up time with Lexy to discuss (ahelfenstein@smu.edu).

Purchasing Certify Teacher Practice Tests

<https://www.certifyteacher.com/texas>

To purchase each Practice Test package for the **one-time discounted cost of \$50:**

- Enter promo code: **SMU4728**
- Select **SMU** as your Educator Preparation Program.

The Certify Teacher Approach

Take the test as a diagnostic benchmark. On any domain/sub-category that you received below a **260 (80%)**, study and build quizzes for those areas. After thorough studying, take the practice test again. A score of **260 is required** for TExES test approval. (A score of **240** on the practice test does **not** qualify.)

With Certify Teacher, you have unlimited access to the practice test and study materials for the one-time cost of \$50.

240 Tutoring Required	Content Test	Science of Teaching Reading (293)	PPR EC-12 (160)	English Second Language** (154)
217 - ELAR 4-8	✓	✓	✓	✓
231 - ELAR 7-12	✓		✓	
113- ELAR/Social Studies 4-8	✓	✓	✓	✓
233 - History 7-12	✓		✓	
118 - Social Studies 4-8	✓		✓	
232 - Social Studies 7-12	✓		✓	
235 - Math 7-12	✓		✓	
114- Math/Science 4-8*	✓		✓	
116- Science 4-8*	✓		✓	
236 - Science 7-12	✓		✓	
237 - Physical Science 6-12	✓		✓	
238 - Life Science 7-12	✓		✓	
240 - Chemistry 7-12	✓		✓	
613- LOTE Spanish	✓		✓	

*Note: The Science 4-8 and Math/Science 4-8 certification areas require a 90% for test approval.

** The English Second Language (ESL) test is highly recommended but not required for initial teacher certification.

Purchasing 240 Tutoring Practice Tests

It is **\$25 per month** to have **access to any/all practice tests** (includes study tools).

Click [here](#) to access the discount code and create your account.

The 240 Tutoring Approach

Take the diagnostic test first (Plan to Pass), then engage with the study guide that comes with instructional content, flashcards, and practice questions. After thorough studying, take the practice test. A score of **80% is required** for TExES test approval.

For 240 Tutoring, you can cancel your monthly subscription from your profile page, once you pass all required practice tests. You are welcome to continue your subscription for further practice until you pass the TExES tests.

TExES Test Information

Pearson Education, Inc. is the administrator of all Texas Education Agency (TEA) certification tests. For further information about the tests and preparation tips, visit [Pearson Texas Educator Certification Examination Program](#).

If you do not pass a TExES test:

- A 30 day wait period is required before retaking the test.
- You will need to schedule time to connect with Lexy to discuss requirements for retest approval by emailing Lexy (ahelfenstein@smu.edu).

Questions?

Contact Lexy Helfenstein at ahelfenstein@smu.edu

Lexy is happy to provide guidance via Zoom, a phone call or email!