

Basic Skills Test

(Instructions)

For School Counseling Degree Seeking Applicants

and

For School Counseling Certification/Licensure Applicants

The Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE) requires that all entering school counseling students must now take and pass a Basic Skills Test prior to taking their first class. This applies to school counseling degree-seeking applicants and to school counseling certification/licensure seeking applicants.

The following options are available to you:

1. ACT + writing (passing score ≥ 22)
 - a. Have a composite ACT Plus Writing score of at least 22. Note that the writing subtest must have been taken; however, ISBE will not include the writing score in the composite score requirement for this test.
 - b. <http://www.actstudent.org/>
2. Illinois Test of Academic Proficiency [TAP] (passing score ≥ 240 in each of the 4 areas)
 - a. Have not failed the TAP five times.
 - b. http://www.il.nesinc.com/IL17_passingrequirements.asp
3. SAT + writing (passing score ≥ 1030 combined math + reading)
 - a. Have a composite (mathematics and critical reading) SAT score of 1030. Note that the writing subtest must have been taken; however, ISBE will not include the writing score in the composite score requirement for this test.
 - b. <http://sat.collegeboard.org/home?affiliateId=nav&bannerId=h-satb>

Candidates who wish to use the ACT Plus Writing or SAT Plus Writing score that meets the requirements above must:

1.) **Complete and submit ISBE Form 73-60** to the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Educator Certification, 100 North First Street, S-306, Springfield, IL 62777. <http://isbe.net/certification/pdf/73-60-act-sat-prep.pdf> *This form requires a signature from the licensure officer at the admitting entitling entity (send to Missy Phillips, Certification Officer, Western Illinois University, Horrabin Hall 91, Macomb IL 61455).*

2.) **Request that ACT or SAT send an official score report** to the Illinois State Board of Education, Division of Educator Certification, 100 North First Street, S-306, Springfield, IL 62777. ACT scores should be requested at www.actstudent.org. The candidate should use unpublished code 3001 to have scores sent directly to ISBE. Candidates using the SAT must contact SAT directly; no request code has been established by ISBE with SAT at this time.

ISBE *will not* return official score reports that reflect a score less than that listed above or are more than 10 years old at the time of application. Such score reports will be scanned and subsequently shredded and cannot be used for admission to an Illinois approved educator program. Also note that any ACT or SAT score report that lacks a writing component *will not* be accepted.

Please also provide copies of your test results (whatever test you take) to the Department of Counselor Education (along with your application materials) in addition to the State.

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