

PREPARING FOR THE PPST - Suggestions

1. Take a practice PPST. Go to <http://coe.ksu.edu> and click on Learning Express Library under Points of Interest. Sign in as a New User and then register to take the test. You will find the PPST: Praxis 1 Practice Test under the subject Teaching.
2. Go to www.ets.org/praxis. Click on "Test Preparation" for information about Tests at a Glance. This section provides the most up-to-date information to assist test takers in selecting the correct information for the test they need to take.
3. Buy the *Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Test Preparation Guide* (Cliff Notes) or *The Best Test Preparation for the Praxis I PPST* (Research & Education Association) at the Union Bookstore or Varney's Bookstore. Study the "Introduction," "Analysis of Exam Areas," "Mathematics Review," and "Selective Review of Grammar and Usage" sections in the book.
4. Check out the resource entitled *Cracking the Praxis*. In addition to practice exams, the guide contains drills, explanations, and test-taking strategies for the PPST. This resource is located at the reserve desk in Hale Library; the course number is DED 000, Linda Rawdon, instructor. A copy of this study guide is also available in the Center for Student and Professional Services Bluemont 13. Students should not write in this resource.
5. Check out the Praxis Pre-Professional Skills Test Study Guide published by Educational Testing Services (ETS), the company that makes the actual test. Because it is published by ETS, the resource should contain explanations and exercises that prepare the student effectively for the PPST. This resource is located at the reserve desk in Hale Library; the course number is DED 000, Linda Rawdon, instructor. A copy of this study guide is also available in the Center for Student and Professional Services, Bluemont 13. Students should not write in this resource.
6. Go to the College of Education website at <http://coe.k-state.edu/>. Click on "Learning Express Library" at the bottom of the page. This will take you to a website that provides help for many different examinations including the PPST. The practice test for the PPST can be found under the "Teaching" section. The site also contains links to skills improvement courses in writing, reading, and math that may be helpful for review.
7. If you feel you are weak in any section of the PPST, or if you have failed one or more of the PPST tests, prepare by using the appropriate procedure given below.

READING

1. Purchase the following books at the Union Bookstore or check them out at the reserve desk at Hale Library (call number DED 000):
Understanding the Main Idea, Making Inferences, and Recognizing Tone. (all by Jamestown Publishers)
Do not write in the books; you will be able to reuse them. Complete each exercise in the books.
2. Purchase the following book at the Union Bookstore or use it at the reserve desk at Hale Library (call number DED 000):
Verbal Review for Standardized Tests (Cliff Notes)
Work through parts II and V of this book.
3. Read for 30 minutes every day.

WRITING

1. Purchase the following book at the Union Bookstore or use it at the reserve desk at Hale Library (call number DED 000):
Verbal Review for Standardized Tests (Cliff Notes) Work through parts II and V.

2. You may use the English Department's Writing Center to assist you with your writing skills. You must sign up a week in advance for a thirty-minute walk-in appointment. A sign-up sheet is posted each Friday afternoon on the bulletin board in 122D English/Counseling Building for the next week's sessions with a Writing Center instructor. Planning ahead is essential; as the semester progresses, slots will fill quickly. You must keep your appointment. Any student who misses two appointments will not be permitted to sign up for a third.

MATH

Go to the reserve desk on the second floor of Hale Library and request call number DED 000 *Basic College Mathematics: An Applied Approach* by Aufman/Barker.

Many problems on the PPST involve fractions, decimals, ratios, and proportions, percents, statistics, and rational numbers. Concentrate on these chapters. You may also want to review the chapters on algebra and geometry.

Complete the chapter test for each chapter. If you get 85% of the problems correct on the chapter test, move on to the next chapter test. If you get less than 85% correct, consider the following:

1. Determine what sections of that chapter had the questions that you missed. This information is in parentheses next to each answer.
2. Study those sections with which you had difficulty.
3. Complete the odd numbered problems in the exercises at the end of each section with which you had difficulty.
4. Complete the chapter review for the section(s) you have been working on and check the answers.
5. Retake the chapter test.
6. If you get 85%, move to the next chapter. If you do not get 85%, repeat the process given above.

KSU Counseling Services

Information about test stress and anxiety can be found on the KSU Counseling Services Web Page www.ksu.edu/counseling/. Click on "Self-Help," then "Helpful Resources"; under "Stress Issues" click "Stressed Out Over Studying?" and/or "Test Stress."

Students wishing to take advantage of individual appointments regarding stress issues can call Counseling Services at 532-6927.

For further information, please contact Linda Rawdon, Center for Student and Professional Services, College of Education, Bluemont Hall 013, (785) 532-5524 or lindar@ksu.edu.

The following websites may also be helpful:

<http://www.purplemath.com/> Click on "How do you really do this stuff?" and you will find a list of basic math, beginning algebra, and advanced algebra skills and practices. The discussion of each subject matter includes problems with detailed explanations and practice. This is an excellent site for practice, review, and remediation.

<http://owl.english.purdue.edu/owl/> This site is recommended on the K-State English Department's Writing Center page. It contains basic essay writing instruction and explanation. The link entitled "Writer's Block/ Writer's Anxiety" could be helpful for students who experience both of these problems on the PPST. The "symptom" and "possible cures" format is easy to read and informative.

<http://www.k-state.edu/english/links.html> Many help sites are included on this page. For example, Jack Lynch's "Getting an A on an English Paper" explains guidelines that could be helpful in almost any essay-writing situation including the PPST. In addition, the "Guide to Grammar and Style" has a quick-reference to specific grammar, vocabulary, and usage questions.