

Student Communique

Message from the Dean

Warm wishes as we embrace the beginning of another academic year. As I reflect on the past year, it was one of much progress and development. Thanks to the excellent faculty, staff, and students. The University Of South Carolina Upstate School Of Education continues to be a regional and national pacesetter in the delivery of high quality educational programs. Our faculty received local, state and national recognition throughout the year. Our students continue to perform and demonstrate the high standards, knowledge, skills and dispositions held deeply by the USC Upstate School of Education.

The strength of any educational program rests with its faculty. The USC Upstate (UCG and Sumter) faculty have been and are home to many outstanding and distinguished educators. The faculty and administration in the USC Upstate School of Education take seriously its responsibility of producing outstanding teachers who make positive differences in the lives of children. To this credit, one of our former graduates, Ms. Stephanie Seay was

named the 2005 -2006 South Carolina Teacher of the year.

One of our major focal points this year will be the continued development and enhancement of our Professional Development Schools and community partnerships. Professional Development Schools are similar to a teaching hospital where practitioners, students and interns work together in the field of medicine. The USC Upstate School of Education has a long standing practice of close associations with the public schools. We have expanded both the numbers and quality of learning experiences our candidates receive in PDS's. We are particularly proud of the PDS's that have been developed with the Sumter area schools. Our collaborations are also increasing with other units across our University and other institutions of higher learning throughout the state of South Carolina and the nation.

The stories in this publication are a testament to the high quality of preparation our candidates are receiving. This is just a snap shot of the scope of the many activities and



Dr. Love

programs in the USC Upstate School of Education. We are doing quite well, and we are extremely proud of your accomplishments. It is an honor and a privilege to serve as your dean.

Congratulations on your accomplishments this past year and accept my very best wishes for your continued success.

With warmest regards,

Charles Love,
Dean, USC Upstate
School of Education.

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Volume 1, Issue 1

Fall 2006

**USC Upstate was
the first NCATE
accredited
institution in the
upstate.**

NCATE

The Standard of Excellence
in Teacher Preparation

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PRAXIS Information

Students who have a SAT score of 1100 or ACT score of 24 are exempt from Praxis 1.



The Online Registration System will not be available from 12pm - 3pm on Thursday, 8/31/06.

ETS offices will be closed on September 4 in observance of Labor Day. In the interim, please use our Web site to find up-to-date information on registration, scoring, test preparation and other topics.

Other PRAXIS Information

PRAXIS I® Overview

What Are the Praxis I® Tests?

Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Assessments (PPST®) are designed to measure basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. The reading, writing, and mathematics assessments are available in two formats: **paper-based** or **computer-based**.

Who Takes the Tests And Why?

Colleges and universities may use Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Assessments to evaluate individuals for entry into teacher education programs. The assessments are generally taken early in your college career.

Where Do People Take the Tests?

Computer-based tests are offered by appointment through a national network of Prometric™ Testing Centers (many Prometric

Testing Centers are located inside Sylvan Learning Centers), and select colleges and universities. Visit [Computer-based Test Centers](#) for testing locations in your area.

Paper-based tests are selected by you when you register. Find [paper-based testing locations](#) in your area.

How Does the Computer-based Test Work?

Each part of the computer-based test is two hours long (to allow for tutorials and the collection of background information from test takers). However, the actual testing time for each part of the test is as follows:

Test	No. of Questions	No. of Minutes
Reading	46	75
Mathematics	46	75
Writing	44	38
Writing	1 essay	30

PASSING SCORES:

Reading 175

Writing 173

Math 172

The Computerized PPST in Reading, Mathematics, and Writing is also offered as a combined test that will be delivered as a single testing session. The combined test will consist of four separately timed sections: Reading, Mathematics, Multiple-choice Writing, and Essay Writing. There will be an optional 15-minute break between the Mathematics and Writing Sections of the test. Individual scores will be reported for Reading, Mathematics, and Writing.

The testing session for the combined test is set for 4 1/2 hours. This allows enough time for tutorials and the collection of background information. The actual testing time for each section is the same as the individual tests.

By using a special tool that marks answers, you can proceed without answering a question and go back to it, or mark a question you have answered and go back to review or change it. A review screen will tell you if a

question has been answered, not yet seen, or marked for review.

Pay close attention to the number of questions and the amount of time remaining to be sure you are making good progress through the test. If a question is difficult or unfamiliar, try to eliminate some of the possible answer choices and make an educated guess based on the remaining options.

How Does the Paper-based Test Work?

The Pre-Professional Skills Tests (PPST®) in Reading and Mathematics consist of 40 multiple-choice questions with 60 minutes of testing time. The Writing test consists of 38 multiple-choice questions and 1 essay question with two 30-minute sections of testing time.

What Can I Do Before Taking Either Type of Test?

Before taking the test, we suggest you review [The Praxis Series 2006-07 Information Bulletin](#) (PDF). The Bulletin

provides information on test taking. The [Tests at a Glance](#) contains information about test content and provides sample test questions.

What Is My Score Based On?

In either type of test, all test takers receive a score regardless of the number of questions answered. Your score is based on the number of questions you answer correctly with no penalty incurred or subtraction for answering a question incorrectly. It is to your advantage to pace yourself so that you have enough time to carefully consider every question.

Reminders:

Students—check your Upstate email often for SoE news.

Students—join the SoE student organizations TEACH, Special Ed. club, & P.E. club.

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South Carolina
Department of Education
Meeting Challenges, Celebrating Achievements

We're on the web:
**[www.uscupstate.edu/
academics/
education/
default.aspx?id=2489](http://www.uscupstate.edu/academics/education/default.aspx?id=2489)**

South Carolina Department of Education has a new web address:

<http://ed.sc.gov/>

Project CREATE

The University of South Carolina Upstate participates in a program funded by the SC Office of Exceptional Children (Susan D. Durant, Director) titled Project CREATE (Centers for the Re-Education and Advancement of TEachers) in special education. This is a personnel preparation project that provides course scholarships and free textbooks to public school teachers in the state who need to complete their special education licensure so that our students with disabilities will be better served educationally. To find out if you qualify to participate, follow the directions provided below:

2006–2007 QUALIFICATION REQUIREMENTS

General Education Teachers or SPED Teacher Assistants (with education degree)

- Complete CREATE application.
- Provide copy of SDE-issued worksheet of needed courses for add-on certification.
- Provide copy of advanced contract/agreement with school district and SDE to teach SPED.
- Complete university center's graduate/non-degree application and pay applicable fee
- Complete university center's registration process.

SPED Teacher Assistants (with non-education degree)

- Complete CREATE application.
- Provide copy of letter of acceptance in a state-approved, university MAT program in SPED.
- Provide copy of current transcript of course credits and remaining courses to complete MAT degree.
- Provide copy of advanced contract/agreement with school district and SDE to teach SPED.
- Obtain transfer course approval (if needed to take course at another university center).
- Complete university center's graduate/non-degree application and pay applicable fee
- Complete university center's registration process.

SPED Teacher Assistants (with no bachelor's degree)

- Complete CREATE application.
- Provide copy of letter of acceptance in a state-approved, university BA/BS program in SPED.
- Provide copy of current transcript of course credits and remaining courses to complete BA/BS degree.
- Provide copy of advanced contract/agreement with school district and SDE to teach SPED.
- Obtain transfer course approval (if needed to take course at another university center).
- Complete university center's graduate/non-degree application and pay applicable fee
- Complete university center's registration process.

CREATE Web Site: <http://www.sccreate.org>

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