

**Subject:** GPA – Qualifying Test Score  
**To:** Institutions of Higher Education  
**From:** Terry Barnaby, Bureau of School Leadership and Teacher Quality  
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Current policy requires that the candidate for certification meet the qualifying score(s) on the appropriate assessment(s) at the time of application. Effective January 1, 2010, the Department based the qualifying assessment scores (content and/or basic skills) on a candidate's overall GPA earned. For certification purposes, the overall GPA is defined as the GPA earned at the completion of:

- A teacher prep program that results in the conferral of a Bachelor's degree; or
- A post-baccalaureate or graduate-level teacher prep program; or
- Twelve (12) graduate credits in education.

Intern certification candidates may use the GPA from:

- 12 credits of graduate course work in education; or
- their undergraduate degree.

The qualifying score will reflect an inverse relationship between the GPA and a percentage of the test standard deviation. As the GPA increases, the total points required to qualify will decrease based on the specific assessment's established standard deviation as indicated in the *GPA-Qualifying Test Score* chart. Therefore, institutions of higher education may use the chart to determine if a candidate has met the qualifying assessment score in order to be recommended for PA certification.

The *GPA-Qualifying Test Score* chart has been attached to this message for your review and will be utilized for out-of-state as well as in-state applicants to ensure that all teacher candidates are meeting equitable requirements.

#### **Example 1 (candidate with less than 3.0 GPA)**

A candidate has earned an overall GPA of 2.87, and is seeking certification in Special Education. In order for this candidate to qualify for certification, they will need to score at least one standard deviation above the qualifying test score (3.0 GPA is the baseline qualifying score). For this example:

1. Locate the Special Education-Education of Exceptional Students (0353) in Column 1 on the *GPA-Qualifying Test Score* chart.
2. Column 2 lists the standard deviation for this particular test.
3. Column 3 will list the qualifying score for this particular test when a candidate has less than a 3.0.
4. Therefore, a candidate seeking certification in Special Education would need to score at least 143 on the test (0353).

#### **Example 2 (candidate with a 4.0 GPA)**

A candidate has earned an overall GPA of 4.0, and is seeking certification in Biology. In this situation, the candidate's qualifying score will be adjusted based on the high GPA. For this example:

1. Locate the Biology (0235) in Column 1 on the *GPA-Qualifying Test Score* chart.
2. Column 8 will list the qualifying score for this test when a candidate has between a 3.76 and a 4.0 overall GPA.
3. Therefore, a candidate with a 4.0 would need to score at least 143 on the (0235) test to qualify for Biology certification.

#### **Example 3 (candidate with a 3.75 GPA-PPST)**

A candidate has earned an overall GPA of 3.75, and is seeking certification in Music, but has not scored at the 3.0 baseline on PPST mathematics test (173). In this situation, the candidate's qualifying score will be Adjusted based on the high GPA. For this example:

1. Locate the PPST Mathematics (5730) in Column 1 on the *GPA-Qualifying Test Score* chart.
2. Column 7 will list the qualifying score for this test when a candidate has between a 3.51 and a 3.75 overall GPA.
3. Therefore, a candidate with a 3.75 would need to score at least 171 on the PPST (5730) test to qualify for Music certification.

In addition, the PDE 338 C - College/University Verification Form has been revised to reflect the GPA – Qualifying Test Score policy, and must be submitted with applications for PA certification to ensure proper processing. It is included in this notification package and is located on the website.

If you have any further questions regarding the use of the *GPA-Qualifying Test Score* chart, please contact your institution's representative in the Division of Professional Education.