

Arizona Educator Certification Tests RESOURCE SHEET

- **What is the AEPA/NES exam?**

The Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments (AEPA) tests determine an individual's competency for employment in Arizona public schools. Candidates must receive passing score(s) on required National Evaluation Series (NES) tests to attain certifications or endorsements from the Arizona Department of Education (ADE). The ADE website has information about exams as well as a link to the AEPA/NES test publisher site, which includes practice tests, videos, and study guides (see [Educator Certification: Testing Information](#)).

- **How are the exams administered?**

Each exam is 100% computer based. Most exams are multiple choice (anywhere from 100-150 questions). Some exams include multiple choice questions and a written response section.

- **Which AEPA/NES exams do I need to take?**

- Look for your program below and see required exams.
- STIC candidates have an additional requirement: you will need to PASS the subject knowledge exams for your subject area before student teaching

College of Education

BSED Elementary Education and MED Elementary Education with Certification

- NES Professional Knowledge: Elementary (NT051) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (Required)
- NES Subject Knowledge: Elementary Sub-Test I and II (NT102 & NT103) (OPTIONAL)
- For Middle Grades Single-Subject student teaching—one of the following Subject Knowledge exams is REQUIRED:
 - Middle Grades English Language Arts (NT201)
 - Middle Grades General Science (NT204)
 - Middle Grades Mathematics (NT203)
 - Middle Grades Social Science (NT202)

BSED Elementary Education with Early Childhood Endorsement

- NES Professional Knowledge: Elementary (NT051) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Subject Knowledge Early Childhood Education (AZ036)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (REQUIRED)

BSED Early Childhood & Early Childhood Special Education

- AEPA Professional Knowledge: Early Childhood (AZ093) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Professional Knowledge: Early Childhood Education (AZ036) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (REQUIRED)

BSED Special & Elementary Education

- NES Professional Knowledge: Elementary (NT051) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (REQUIRED)
- NES Professional Knowledge: Special Education (NT601) (REQUIRED)
- For Middle Grades Single-Subject student teaching—one of the following Subject Knowledge exams is REQUIRED:
 - Middle Grades English Language Arts (NT201)
 - Middle Grades General Science (NT204)
 - Middle Grades Mathematics (NT203)
 - Middle Grades Social Science (NT202)

BSED Special & Elementary Education with Early Childhood Endorsement

- NES Professional Knowledge: Elementary (NT051) (REQUIRED)
- NES Professional Knowledge: Special Education (NT601) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Subject Knowledge: Early Childhood (AZ036) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (REQUIRED)
- For Middle Grades Single-Subject student teaching—one of the following Subject Knowledge exams is REQUIRED:
 - Middle Grades English Language Arts (NT201)

- Middle Grades General Science (NT204)
- Middle Grades Mathematics (NT203)
- Middle Grades Social Science (NT202)

MED Special Education – Mild/Moderate Disabilities Certified

- NES Professional Knowledge: Special Education (NT601) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (REQUIRED)

MED Early Childhood Special Education

- AEPA Professional Knowledge: Special Education Early Childhood (AZ083) (REQUIRED)
- AEPA Foundations of Reading (NT890) (REQUIRED 2025)

MAT Teaching Science with Certification

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- NES Subject Knowledge Exam is Required for licensure if applicant DOES NOT HAVE a degree in one of the following content areas:
 - Biology (NT305), Chemistry (NT306), Earth Science (AZ045), General Science (NT311), Physics (NT308)

College of the Environment, Forestry, & Natural Sciences

BSED Secondary Education, all Science Areas

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC candidates: Subject Knowledge in one of the following prior to student teaching– Biology (NT305), Chemistry (NT306), Earth Science (AZ045), General Science (NT311), Physics (NT308)

BSED Mathematics–Secondary Education and Middle-Grades Education

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC candidates: STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–NES Subject Knowledge Mathematics (NT304)

College of Arts & Letters

BSED Art Education

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–NES Subject Knowledge: Art (NT503)

BMED Music Secondary Education

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–NES Subject Knowledge: Music (NT504)

BSED Secondary Education, English

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–English Language Arts (NT301)

BSED Secondary Education, History and Social Studies

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–
 - NES Subject Knowledge: History (NT302)
 - AEPA Subject Knowledge: Economics (AZ035)
 - AEPA Subject Knowledge: Geography (AZ004)
 - AEPA Subject Knowledge: Political Science/American Government (AZ006)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Social Science (NT303)

BSED Secondary Education, Spanish

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–Spanish (NT401)

College of Health & Human Services

BSED Health Sciences - Physical Education

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- STIC Candidates: Passing Scores on Subject Knowledge exam prior to student teaching–Physical Education (NT506)

Physical Education Path to Certification (Post-Bacc Certificate)

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary NT052) (REQUIRED)

NAU Yuma

Post Bacc - Secondary Education (Yuma)

- NES Professional Knowledge: Secondary (NT052) (REQUIRED)
- One of the following AEPA/NES Subject Knowledge exams: (REQUIRED by NAU Yuma for program admission; OPTIONAL for licensure if applicant has a degree in one of the following content areas)
 - Middle Grades English Language Arts (NT201)
 - Middle Grades General Science (NT 204)
 - Middle Grades Mathematics (NT203)
 - Middle Grades Social Science (NT202)
 - Biology (NT305); Chemistry (NT306); Earth Science (AZ045); General Science (NT311); Physics (NT308)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Mathematics (NT304)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Art (NT503)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Music (NT504)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: English Language Arts (NT301)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: History (NT302)
 - AEPA Subject Knowledge: Economics (AZ035)
 - AEPA Subject Knowledge: Geography (AZ004)
 - AEPA Subject Knowledge: Political Science/American Government (AZ006)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Social Science (NT303)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Spanish (NT401)
 - NES Subject Knowledge: Physical Education (NT506)
- **Which AEPA/NES exams do I need before student teaching for STIC and single-subject middle school Placements?**
 - The Student Teacher Intern Certificate (STIC) is a student teaching placement in which you are hired as the teacher of record by a school/district. These placements have additional application requirements (for more information, see <https://nau.edu/pep/resources/>). In terms of AEPA/NES exams, these placements require the following:
 - A passing score on the subject knowledge test(s) that corresponds to the teaching certificate that the student teaching intern is pursuing;
 - A passing score on the professional knowledge test that corresponds to the teaching certificate that the student teaching intern is pursuing.
 - Undergraduate Elementary Education majors planning to student teach in a single-subject middle school classroom are REQUIRED to pass the appropriate middle grades licensure exam:
 - Middle Grades English Language Arts (NT201)
 - Middle Grades General Science (NT204)
 - Middle Grades Mathematics (NT203)
 - Middle Grades Social Science (NT202)
- **Which AEPA/NES exams do I need for admission to a Teacher Intern Preparation Program (TIPP; alternative pathways for graduate students who already hold an undergraduate degree)?**

NAU requires a passing score on the appropriate Professional Knowledge exam to pursue a teacher preparation program through an alternative pathway. For more information regarding the degree programs that NAU offers through TIPP or an alternative pathway, see [Teacher Intern Preparation Program | College of Education](#).
- **When should I take the AEPA/NES exams?**

The NES Professional Knowledge exams are required for AZ teacher certification. We recommend completing the required Professional Knowledge exam(s) *prior to student teaching or during the student teaching semester*. Subject knowledge can be taken once content knowledge coursework is completed.

- **How do I register? Where can I take the exam?**
 - Register online ([Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessments](#))
 - Locate a test center ([Test Dates and Sites](#))
 - **REMINDER:** When registering for the licensure exam(s), **please select NAU so that your licensure exam results are included in our passing-rate statistics.** NAU only uses these results for program evaluation and improvement. Reporting results has NO impact on your academic progress or degree program completion.
- **What is considered a PASSING score?**

To learn more about passing scores, see [Passing Requirements \(nesinc.com\)](#).
- **What if I don't pass the AEPA/NES exam?**
 - You can repeat the exam **after 30 days**. *You will pay the exam fee the first three times you take an exam. If you fail each of these 3 times, your exam fee is waived for all additional retakes.*
 - You may take it an unlimited number of times.
- **When and where will I get my scores?**
 - Your score reports are available through the online registration system.
 - You may also choose during registration to have your score report emailed to you.
 - **Plan Ahead!** *It takes approximately 4 weeks to get Professional Knowledge exam results.*
- **Are preparation materials available for the exams?**
 - Preparation materials are available through Pearson and include an interactive online study guide, full-length practice test, test framework, and testing tips. See [Preparation Materials](#).
- **Cost?**
 - Licensure exam costs vary—a secondary education subject exam is typically \$119 and the Foundations of Reading exam is \$150. The cost for each licensure exam is listed on the Arizona Educator Proficiency Exam web page that provides a description of the exam (see [Arizona Educator Exams](#)). Exam prices can change.
 - **Arizona Residents:** Arizona residents in an educator preparation program are eligible for a *one-time fee waiver for the Foundations of Reading (NT890) exam*. You must have a valid Arizona mailing address (P.O. Boxes are ok) to qualify for this state-funded assessment fee waiver. The waiver will automatically be applied during the online registration process.
 - **ATA Participants ONLY:** ATA will only cover the cost of *the first attempt at all required* licensure exams. Watch your NAU email for notification on how to request vouchers to pay for the exams. Voucher request emails are sent quarterly (every three months) to current ATA participants, student teachers, and recent graduates.

ATA participants are emailed a personalized link to request the vouchers for only the tests they have been approved for. Do not share this link with others. Instead, have them contact the PEP office. To be eligible, you need to have been an ATA at NAU participant in Fall 2021 or later. Mail PEPATA@nau.edu for more information. *NOTE: Unfortunately, ATA is not able to reimburse for licensure exams that have already been paid for or taken.*

For more information on Arizona teacher certification and testing information
[Certificates & Requirements | Arizona Department of Education](#)
[Educator Certification: Testing Information](#)