

SRU College of Education Student,

PDE released a series of standards directing teacher preparation programs in Pennsylvania to require all students enrolled in an approved education program to meet specific *basic skills* requirements before formal admission into teacher candidacy. Students must demonstrate basic skills in the areas of **Mathematics**, **Reading**, and **Writing**. PDE has approved the following measures of basic skills (PDE, 2014): SAT, ACT, PAPA (Pearson), and CORE (Praxis). Specific PDE testing requirements can be found [here](#).

In response to these requirements, the departments of Elementary/Early Childhood Education (ELEC) and Special Education (SPED) at Slippery Rock University have developed a multi-tiered system of support (MTSS) and advising to assist students in meeting the basic skills requirements established by PDE. The MTSS (see Addendums 2 & 3) is a “need-driven” decision-making tool to assist students in getting the necessary help they need and providing them with access to the appropriate university recourses. As of March 2017, current passing rates on the PAPA and CORE tests are:

	PAPA	CORE
Mathematics	76%	88%
Reading	65%	93%
Writing	66%	84%

Based on the current passing scores, we recommend that you *prepare* for and **take the CORE BEFORE** the start of your **FIRST** semester at SRU (see Addendum 1). At this time, we recommend students take the **CORE** exam.

If you have any questions, please contact the ELEC Department at (724) 738 – 2042 or the SPED Department at (724) 738 – 2085.

Addendum 1: Basic Skills Prep Course Information

Addendum 2: Basis Skills Advising Guide

Addendum 3: Basic Skills Testing Plan of Action.

Addendum 1: Basic Skills Prep Course Information

In order to help you prepare for the basic skills tests, the College of Education at SRU has provided students access to the following preparation materials.

Free CORE Prep Course:

- Free (to SRU Students) Praxis Core Prep Course:
 - <http://www.longsdalepub.com/praxis/>
 - Password and login information is available at 105 McKay. Please stop in or call (724) 738-2007.

Butler County Community College PAPA Prep (\$199 fee required):

New Student Registration Steps:

<http://www.bc3.edu/praxis/index.html>

***Note:** This course is designed for teacher candidates preparing to take the new ^[L]_[SEP] Pennsylvania PAPA Exam. PAPA Prep online provides interaction with the instructor through submitted assignments, discussion board topics, and live chats in the chat room in Blackboard. Homework assignments are submitted to the instructor so the instructor can help students discover areas of strengths and weaknesses. Students will learn exam taking strategies, improve reading comprehension, learn how to write an effective essay response, understand key mathematical concepts, and get plenty of practice exam questions.

Butler County Community College Tutoring:

<http://www.bc3.edu/praxis/index.html>

Free ETS CORE Preparation Materials:

<http://www.ets.org/praxis/prepare/materials>

Free Pearson PAPA Preparation Materials:

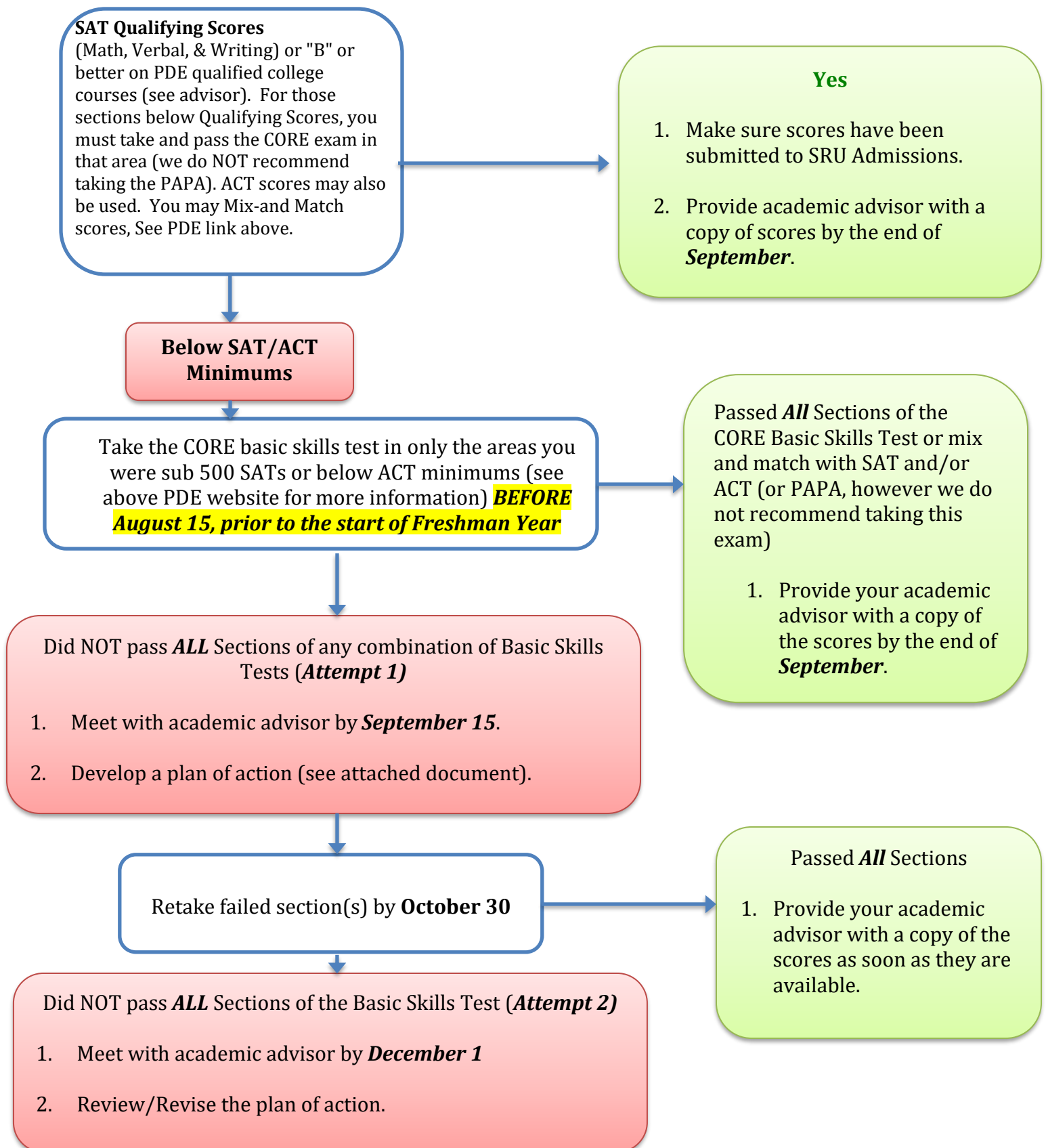
http://www.pa.nesinc.com/TestView.aspx?f=HTML_FRAG/PA001_PrepMaterials.html

Free Khan Academy Math Online Prep Course:

<https://www.khanacademy.org>

Elementary/Early Childhood Education Department & Special Education Department Basic Skills Testing Advising Guide

For PDE Qualifying Scores, Mix-and-Match Calculator, please see the [PDE Composite Calculator](#).



Retake failed section(s) by start of the ***Spring Semester, Freshman Year***

Passed ***ALL*** Sections

1. Provide your academic advisor with a copy of the scores as soon as they are available.

Did NOT pass ***ALL*** Sections of a combination of Basic Skills Tests before the start of the ***Spring Semester, Freshman Year (Attempt 3)***

1. Meet with academic advisor by ***February 15***
2. Review/Revise the plan of action
3. Discuss remedial course offerings at community colleges that can be taken during the summer.

Retake failed section(s) by start of the ***Fall Semester, Sophomore Year.***

Passed ***ALL*** Sections

1. Provide your academic advisor with a copy of the scores as soon as they are available.

Did NOT pass ***ALL*** Sections before the start of the ***Fall Semester, Sophomore Year (Attempt 4)***

1. Meet with academic advisor by ***September 15***
2. Discuss other program/major options

or

Student can continue to take foundation level education courses until Block 1. However, passing Basic Skills test scores are ***required*** for Teacher Candidacy and Block 1 (per Pennsylvania Department of Education Policy).

**Elementary/Early Childhood Department and Special Education Department
Basic Skills Testing Plan of Action**

****This form should be completed with your academic advisor after attempting either the PAPA or CORE Basic Skills Tests.***

Name: _____ **SRU ID:** _____ **SRU Email:** _____@sru.edu

Advisor: _____

Major:

☐ ELEC Pk – 4

Current Academic Standing:

☐ ELEC/SPED Dual

☐ Freshman 1

☐ Freshman 2

☐ Sophomore 1

☐ Sophomore 2

Most Recent Test Scores: PAPA CORE
Math
Reading
Writing

Most Recent Test Date: _____

Attempt #: ☐ 1st ☐ 2nd ☐ 3rd ☐ 4th

Campus Services Utilized Since Last Attempt:

☐ SRU Writing Center Documentation Provided: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ SRU Tutoring Center Documentation Provided: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ SRU Math Emporium Documentation Provided: ☐ Yes ☐ No

☐ N/A 1st Attempt

Test Prep Courses Utilized Since Last Attempt:

☐ BC3 Prep Course ☐ PDE Prep Materials ☐ Longsdale PAPA Prep

☐ Paid Tutor Through BC3 ☐ Other PAPA Prep (online) ☐ ETS CORE Prep Materials

To be used after 4th attempt:

Campus Services to be Utilized Before Next Attempt:

☐ SRU Writing Center

☐ SRU Tutoring Center

☐ SRU Math Emporium

Test Prep Courses to be Utilized Before Next Attempt:

☐ BC3 Prep Course

☐ PDE Prep Materials

☐ Longsdale PAPA Prep

☐ Other PAPA Prep
(online)

☐ ETS CORE Prep
Materials

☐ Paid Tutor Through BC3

Remedial Courses to be Taken Before Next Attempt:

SRU Courses

☐ ACSD 110

☐ Math 120

☐ Math 118

☐ Math 152

Community College Courses

☐ Math Course

☐ Writing Course

☐ Reading Course

1. My advisor and I discussed other programs/majors: Initials

Other programs/majors discussed:

2. I understand that I can continue to take foundation level education courses until Block 1. However, passing Basic Skills test scores are ***required*** for **Teacher Candidacy and Block 1** (*per Pennsylvania Department of Education Policy*).

Initials

Additional Comments:

Student Signature: _____ **Date:**

Advisor Signature: _____ **Date:**