PRAXIS II Test Preparation

Many Vanderbilt students are concerned about preparing for PRAXIS II testing. Even though tests can be taken as many times as one needs, the tests are expensive, monopolize Saturdays,* and there is a time element that can become problematic, so register to take the tests when you think you will be ready toward the end of the program. Tennessee licensure recommendation cannot be made until the Tennessee-required tests are passed.

When a VU student does have to retake a test because a score does not meet the minimum score required by a state, the student usually performs better on the test the second time because, with test experience, time can be budgeted more effectively.

Most students prepare for the tests only by reviewing the “Tests At A Glance” information for each test on ETS’s PRAXIS II website. A pull-down list of tests for each state enables the student to click on each test and see several pages of descriptions of the test, sample questions and answers, and, in some cases, examples of how answers to the free-response questions are graded by ETS test readers.)

Some students, who want a more in-depth preparation, purchase the study guides offered on the PRAXIS II website (test booklets and fees are listed). Some study guides are available at bookstore chains. The Peabody Library also has study guides available for check-out.

Remember to follow the same preparation strategies that you use to guide your students: get plenty of sleep, eat breakfast, and know exactly where you need to park and report to on the Saturday to take the test--well before the morning of the test. If you have questions, call the testing coordinator at the facility where you will be taking the test. At Vanderbilt, the coordinator is Rosanne Awbrey at the VU Psychological/Counseling Center (proctor for standardized tests)—322-2571.

We’ve had a 99-100% pass rate on PRAXIS II exams consistently over the past many years, including scores for those few students who retook one or more tests.

*Beginning 10/17/10, some tests may be taken at Prometric Testing Centers (used to be Sylvan Learning Centers) on an individual appointment basis. Each year, a few more of the tests become available Prometric sites.