

## MICHIGAN TESTS FOR TEACHER CERTIFICATION (MTTC)

### About the Testing Program

In 1986, the Michigan legislature amended Section 1531 of Public Act 267 which established a testing program as part of the state's teacher certification requirements. The testing program consists of subject area tests and a test of basic skills in reading, mathematics, and writing. The purpose of these examinations is to ensure that each certified staff member has the necessary basic skills and content knowledge to serve in Michigan public schools.

Passing the Basic Skills test and the appropriate subject area test(s) is one component of the process for certification in the state of Michigan. In addition to passing these tests, a candidate for certification must complete required course work in an approved teacher education program as well as any field and clinical experience requirements.

The Michigan Test for Teacher Certification is the **only** test that satisfies the testing requirement for teacher certification in Michigan.

### About the Tests

The tests are criterion-referenced and objective-based. Criterion-referenced, multiple-choice tests are designed to measure a candidate's knowledge in relation to an established standard of competence (criterion) rather than in relation to the performance of other candidates. The tests are designed to help identify those candidates who have the level of knowledge required to perform satisfactorily in their field of specialization.

An individual's performance on a test is evaluated against an established standard. The passing score for each test is established by the Michigan State Board of Education and is based on the professional judgments and recommendations of Michigan educators.

**Basic Skills Test.** The Basic Skills Test consists of three subtests: reading, mathematics, and writing. The reading and mathematics subtests consist of multiple-choice test questions. The writing subtest consists of a writing sample. To pass the Basic Skills test, a candidate must pass each of the subtests.

**Subject Area Tests.** Each subject area test must be in your major and/or minor and consists of multiple-choice questions. Your score is based on the total number of questions you answer correctly. Tests in the major **and** minor areas must be taken and passed by all students seeking secondary certification (grades 7-12). Elementary certification candidates passing both tests entitles them to teach in grades 6-8 in the major/minor.

**Elementary Education Test.** Every elementary certification candidate must take this test as it is required for K-5 all subject and K-8 self-contained classroom certificates.

### About the First Aid/CPR Requirement

The State of Michigan thru HB 4237 ( 12-13-03) has instituted the requirement of providing proof of certification in first Aid and CPR for those seeking initial (Provisional) certification.

## About Public Act 282 (12-16-92)

... all candidates for teacher certification in Michigan must pass a basic skills (reading, writing, mathematics) test. Candidates for a secondary level teaching certificate must pass the appropriate available subject area examination for each subject area in which they are to be certified. Candidates for an elementary level teaching certificate must pass the elementary certification examination, and the appropriate available subject area examination for each subject area, if any, for which they apply to be certified. **The MI Basic Skills examination must be passed prior to enrollment in student teaching.** The elementary examination and the subject area examinations must be passed before a person is recommended for certification.

### Aids To Preparation

The Registration Bulletin which contains the application blank, testing deadline dates, and other pertinent information is available in Briggs 122 and Reno Hall. The objectives for each of the subject area tests can also be obtained in the Education Department office Reno Hall. These are helpful in preparing to take the subject area tests.

In addition, the National Evaluation Systems and the Michigan Department of Education have developed study guides for the Michigan Tests for Teacher Certification. These are made available to students through the test registration process.

