

Preparing for the WEST-E Elementary FAQs and Study Strategies

Please read this carefully as it contains important information on the WEST-E and gives you specific strategies for preparing for the exam.

How do I sign up?

Follow this link to the WEST-E website. It will have dates, expense, preparation materials and an on-line sign up. <http://www.west.nesinc.com/>

When do I take the WEST-E exam?

There are several issues on the timing of the WEST-E that you are important for you to know.

- You must pass the WEST-E before you student teach
- It takes 3-4 weeks after the test to learn your score
- You will need to apply for student teaching in the semester before you student teach. Example: Student teach in the spring then you will apply in early fall.
- If you wait until the Literacy Block (440/441/442) to take the exam then you will have little or no time to re-take the exam before student teaching starts.
- We suggest you take it during the Curriculum Block (340/341/342) or in the summer prior to the Literacy Block. That will give you enough time to re-take it should you not pass a sub-section.

Why do I have to take the literacy part before I have studied that content?

You don't have to, but we want to make sure you have time to retake the exam just in case you don't pass the exam the first time.

What happens if I don't pass?

- You can take the exam multiple times
- If you don't pass one sub-test then you just re-take that sub-test next time

What if I haven't passed before student teaching starts?

- You may petition to student teach without having passed both exams *if* you have received at least a score of 225 on each sub-test. See the department chair for a petition.
- Petitions are decided by the Endorsement Review Committee made up of programs directors in the SOE.
- If you didn't get at least a 225 on each exam then the SOE has concern that you will not be able to pass it before you student teach and you will not be allowed you to continue

What is on the WEST-E Elementary?

- There are two subtests in the WEST-E Elementary
 1. Subtest One: Math, Science, and Health/PE
 2. Subtest Two: English/Literacy/Social Studies/Fine arts
- Each sub-test contains 55 multiple choice items.
- You must get a passing score (240) on each subtest to pass the WEST-E
- The second test will have questions on literacy which you have not yet studied. See Timeline Issues above to better understand this issue.
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How do I pass the Literacy section if I have not yet studied this?

- Dr. Lisa Laurier has prepared a study guide that will assist you in preparing for the WEST-E in literacy. <link>

Which sections do Whitworth students struggle with?

- Actually, our students do well in this test. Over 80% of you pass both exams on the first attempt.
- The two areas with the most difficulties are social studies and science. This is most likely due to the breadth of these subjects, which makes it harder to prepare for.
- The other issue with which students may struggle is anxiety over test taking. Talk to your advisor about strategies for this.

How to Best Prepare for the WEST E: (adopted from Dr. Lisa Laurier)

1. Start by going to the WEST-E website and take the sample tests provided by the testing company. This will give you an idea of the kinds of test questions you can expect. Don't panic—just think them through. Remember: The more often you take tests the better you become at taking tests. Test taking is a skill.
2. Next take the initial 93 item practice test and self-score. This will tell you your weaknesses. This test is available on reserve at the Circulation Desk in the Library. This is the preparation book for the PRAXIS II which we don't administer but it is a great way to start assessing your strengths and weaknesses
3. When you've identified areas of concern, go to the Everything You Need To Know About (Math, Science, English, World History, Geography) workbooks in the library or buy a used copy online. They're by Kate Kelly. Use those to study your weak areas by reading the books once and highlighting any areas that you are not immediately familiar with; read a second time only going over the highlighted areas. Any of those that, once reading, you feel you remember and know well, cross out. Then, make note cards for the rest by putting the information on one side and writing a question on the other. Use these to self-quiz.
4. Study the attached Reading Topics sheet to prepare for the Literacy questions <link>
5. Take a second practice test using the online options from the other states that have contracted with Pearson. Delete the state specific questions. <link>
6. If you have an 80% or better, you can stop. If not, go to the next step.
7. See one of your professors to check out the WEST E flashcards or WEST E study book. There are only five copies of these so they are first come, first served. Repeat the process used with the Everything You Need to Know Books and self-quiz. **[I am not sure where these are stored]**
8. Take a third practice test using the ones posted online. If you have an 80% or better, stop.
9. If not, then see your advisor to explore other options.
10. Repeat until you get to an 80% or better and then register for the test.
11. Good luck!