

Milestone Frequently Asked Questions

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Milestone I Candidacy Status

- Completion of Educ 2100/5500 or equivalent with “C” or better
- Minimum of 12 hours of undergraduate credit or 3 hours of graduate credit
- Minimum 2.5 GPA (undergraduate, 2.75 for MAT students)
- Evidence of Professional Dispositions*
- Completion of Security Clearance by TBI/FBI

*Evaluated by 2100 instructor, clinical teacher in field observation, and incidence reports

Once Milestone I has been approved, teacher candidates will be eligible to take Educ 3070, 4270 or equivalents.

Can the program be completed faster than four years?

The answer is yes. HOWEVER, you must carefully plan. The sequencing of the milestones needs to be determined well in advance since they are anchored to courses not offered during the summer term. Also, you need to determine what other classes are possible to take in the summer. Remember that some upper division courses are not offered every term, so planning for this will be important as well. Depending on your GPA, it may be possible to complete more than 18 hours, but this requires an Overload Request Form, available from Online Forms for the Registrar’s Office. If you decide to complete the program early, then meet with your advisor as soon as possible and take the Overload Request Form with you. For secondary students, be sure to confirm milestone sequencing with your MINOR advisor, also. It is strongly suggested that you work up a draft plan and then schedule an appointment with your assigned advisor and discuss in detail.

Do I have to take 15-18 credit hours each term to finish on time?

The four-year plan is based on completing the degree over a traditional timeframe of 8 regular semesters with no summer coursework. For those without previous college credits, the teacher licensure programs can be completed during 8 traditional semesters (with 15-18 hours per semester). Because many classes are offered during summer, at Fort Campbell, and winter, with careful planning, this degree can also be finished in less than 4 years. However, this requires early and careful planning with major and minor advisors.

Can I make a C grade in a course and still pass my milestones?

Yes, but it depends on grades in your other courses and your overall GPA. Each of the 4 milestones has a GPA requirement with all professional education courses of grades C or higher. After earning a GPA of 2.5 or higher for Milestone I, the minimum GPA requirement is 2.75. To accomplish this mathematically, it will mean that most grades are A's and B's. Too many grades of C and D will lower the GPA.

What are Dispositions?

A disposition is a frame of mind displayed over a period of time. In the teacher education program, professional dispositions are evaluated by course instructors and cooperating teachers. Failure to demonstrate professional dispositions may result in an incident report and/or dismissal from the teacher education program.

What does a minor do for you?

All teaching majors have a major in the content they are teaching and a minor in professional education. The Professional Education Minor is a requirement for licensure in your teaching major. It provides you the skills to launch your teaching career and it focuses on the general principles of pedagogical knowledge and knowledge of learners and how they learn. For elementary school licensure, including grades K-6, PreK-3, and 4-8, and special education, you have the same advisor for your major and minor. For secondary school licensure in all other contents, you will have 2 advisors, one for your major content and one for the professional education minor.

Milestone II Provisional Status

- Minimum 2.75 GPA
- Minimum of “C” in Professional Minor courses
- Evidence of Professional Dispositions*
- Minimum of 45 hours if undergraduate or 9 hours if graduate student
- Minimum Praxis I (CASE Reading – 156, Writing – 162, and Math – 150, or ACT – 22, SAT – 1020) or GRE (Verbal – 350 and Quantitative – 350) for graduate students
- Completion of Security Clearance by TBI/FBI
- Milestone II Application and Checklist

*Evaluated by 3070 instructor, clinical teachers in field observation, and incident reports.

How long does it take to raise my GPA?

Raising your GPA depends on both quality points and credit hours. Your quality points divided by credit hours calculates your GPA. Maximum effect would be to retake classes with F, D, and possibly C and obtaining an A because the quality points will go higher without changing the credit hours. It is recommended that you go through your transcript and identify classes that you got F, D, or C and determine the classes that you have the best chance for A or B.

What SAT or ACT score do I need to exempt me from the Praxis I?

A composite ACT score greater than or equal to 22 will waive you from the Praxis I requirement. An SAT score of 1020 will waive you from the Praxis I requirement. Graduate students will submit their GRE/MAT scores instead of Praxis I.

How do I find out my ACT score?

If you sent your ACT scores as part of your initial Admissions, then it is available to your faculty advisor. Schedule an appointment to do this. If you did not, then you can request your score to be sent directly to APSU for a small fee from www.act.org. Another possibility for proof of scores is a high school transcript as this information is sometimes included on the transcript.

Where do I take the Praxis I exam?

APSU longer administers PRAXIS exams. To schedule a PRAXIS exam, please contact Prometric Testing Center at (931) 647-2003.

What if I do not pass Praxis I?

If the Praxis I criterion is not met, then you will not pass Milestone II. If you don't pass, then you will have to retake the portion that did not meet the cutoff score (there are three portions: reading, writing, and math). Failure to pass all 3 parts or scores not received in time will result in not passing Milestone II. In these instances, it will be very important to meet with your advisor to discuss your options.

When do I find out what school I will be assigned for my field experience?

EDUC 2100 requires a 10-hour field experience in the local public schools (EDUC 3070 will require an additional 15 hours). The coordinator for the clinical teaching office will give a presentation in EDUC 2100 about the procedure followed to place you in a field experience. You will fill out a required form where you will provide essential information. Once the clinical teaching office processes this form AND you have security clearance by the TBI/FBI, then you will be assigned a cooperating teacher in one of the participating schools. The Office of Clinical Teaching will then notify your instructor, who will then provide you the placement information.

Milestone III - Clinical Status

- 2.75 GPA
- Minimum grade of "C" in all professional Education courses
- Candidates must pass all required Praxis II exams before entering student teaching.
- Completion of all courses required for licensure/degree
- Successful mastery of Standards I-VII
- Evidence of Professional Dispositions*
- Completion of Security Clearance by TBI/FBI

*Evaluation by 4080 instructor, clinical teachers in field observations, incident reports, and review of University disciplinary record

Once Milestone III has been approved, teacher candidates will be eligible to begin their clinical placements (15 weeks of student teaching). All coursework should be completed at this time. Taking additional courses with student teaching and the teaching seminar is prohibited.

Do both Praxis I and Praxis II cover the same material?

The Praxis I test will measure your basic skills to enter college-level teacher preparation courses. APSY requires this to be done as part of Milestone II. The Praxis II tests will measure your knowledge of content for the subjects you will teach, your understanding of pedagogical content knowledge, your understanding of general principles of teaching and learning, and your knowledge of learners and how they learn. Look on www.ets.org for more information.

What if I don't pass my Praxis II?

Praxis II requirements vary by teaching major. Be sure to look at your program sheet for the recent Praxis II requirements. Passing all Praxis II tests is required for Milestone III. If you do not pass all of the exams, then you will not register for student teaching in Residency II, which is your final semester. You must pass all the criteria for Milestone III to student teach and you must pass all the criteria for Milestone IV to be certified.

Are there requirements before taking Praxis II other than taking Praxis I? When do I take the Praxis II exams?

Passing the Praxis II exams is required for Milestone III and must be completed before Residency II. You will complete these when you have completed appropriate coursework in your upper division education courses and by the end of Residency I. These exams may need to be taken at least 3 months before the beginning of Residency II, so you must carefully plan and register early. Failure to pass the exams in a timely manner will result in delaying Residency II. Speak to both your major and minor advisors for additional clarification.

How long does it take for the security clearance to be processed?

The TBI/FBI follow a protocol that is independent of APSU and the processing time will depend on various factors. There is no way to predict the amount of time it will take, It may take only a few days or much longer. For this reason, it is important to begin the process early to ensure that the necessary clearance is given in time to complete field experiences.

Milestone IV - Induction Status

- Acceptable level for knowledge and skills identified for Milestone IV through approval of electronic portfolio (no score of Unacceptable or Developing on the assessment rubric) or successful completion of Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA)

- Evidence of Professional Dispositions*
- Passing scores on all Praxis II licensure exams
- Successful completion of clinical placement seminars
- Passing grades in both clinical placements
- Completion of all licensure requirements
- Completion of Security Clearance by TBI/FBI

*Evaluated by university supervisor and clinical teacher

Once teacher candidates have met the requirements for Milestone IV, they are required to complete and submit the Application for Licensure. This is usually completed during the Student Teaching Mid-Term Seminar. In addition, a complete set of official transcripts must be submitted to the Austin Peay State University Licensure Office, located in the Claxton Building, Room 208.

Meeting Tennessee licensure requirements and submitting the application for the Tennessee license are requirements even if you do not plan to teach in Tennessee.

Can we student teach in a private school?

No, all placements are in the public school systems that the Office of Clinical Teaching contracts with.

How are student teaching placements made for Residency II?

Placements for Residency II will be with the same cooperating teacher from Residency I. These teachers meet stringent state guidelines and volunteer to mentor student teachers as a way to give back to the teaching profession. They receive no extra compensation and are selected to work with student teachers based on their professionalism and strong teaching skills. The Coordinator for the Office of Clinical Teaching Experiences determines all student teaching placements for Residency I and II and will base placements on the availability of qualified cooperating teachers and their school principals.

Can I pick what grade levels I student teach with?

For your formal student teaching assignment, you will receive two student teaching placements determined by Clinical Teaching. In most cases, these placements will be for two grade spans based on experiencing two contrasting levels of age and/or developmental ability.

You will not pick the grade level that you will do your student teaching in, but you may be able to request the county system that you are placed in.

Can you get a job in the school you student teach in?

Yes, this does happen. It is important to conduct yourself in every field experience as if you are being observed for a future job opportunity. This means being dependable, punctual, and willing to do more than the minimum. Also, being able to communicate well with your cooperating teachers and other school personnel and the principal will be very important.