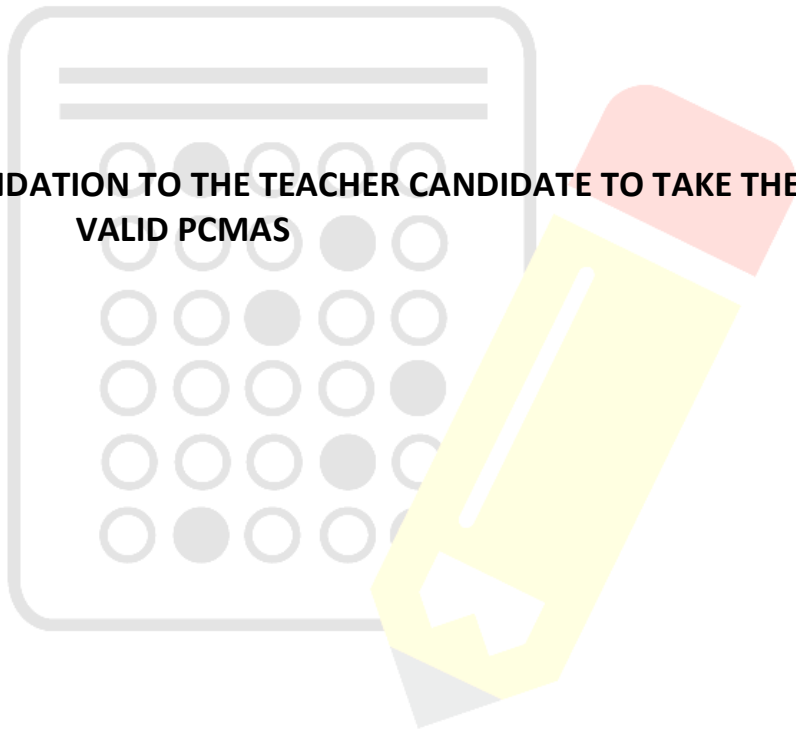


**University of Puerto Rico  
Department of Education**

**PROTOCOL FOR RECOMMENDATION TO THE TEACHER CANDIDATE TO TAKE THE  
VALID PCMAS**



**Prepared by:**

Prof. Carlos H. Pagán Rivera  
Prof. Onix Rivera Toledo

**Revised in:**

December – 2018

***\*Some of the information in this protocol is from the College Board of Puerto Rico and Latin America.***

## I. General Information

### ***Who will be able to be examined in PCMAS?***

According to the regulations in the Puerto Rico Department of Education (PRDE), any person wishing to obtain a regular teacher certificate and who is a "bona fide" candidate to be certified must be examined in the Basic Battery of Tests. Anyone who has completed or expects to be able to complete, no later than December 31 of this year, the requirements for eligibility for certification shall be considered a "bona fide" candidate. Any person wishing to obtain a certificate to teach Spanish, English, mathematics, social studies/history or science as a specialty, should be examined in the corresponding specialization test, in addition to the Basic Battery. Teachers who already have a regular certificate and wish to obtain another to teach Spanish, English, math, social studies/history or science should be examined only in the corresponding specialization.

### ***How were the tests developed?***

The management staff of the Puerto Rico Department of Education and the management and technical staff of the College Board met to reflect on the need to review and update the Teacher Certification Tests, in line with the changes in the paradigms of the field of education and educational psychology, and with the postulates of Education Reform and community schools. Because of the meetings, an Advisory Committee was established, composed of administrative staff from the PRDE and the College Board and the deans or directors of university education departments who have Teacher Preparation Programs. The Committee's recommendations on the process to be followed in the development of the second generation of PCMAS were as follows:

- ✓ Maintain the Fundamental Knowledge and Communication Competences Test and update the content of its different components: Spanish, English, Mathematics, Science, Humanities, Social Sciences and computer literacy.
- ✓ Replace the Professional Competency Test with two different tests, according to the certification of elementary or secondary education to which the candidate aspires.
- ✓ Maintain tests for teachers specialized in teaching English, Spanish, and Mathematics, respectively, and make a thorough review of their content to harmonize it with existing standards.
- ✓ Develop two new tests for specialist teachers, in Social Studies/History and Sciences, respectively.

Based on these recommendations, the College Board submitted to the PRDE a proposal to develop the second generation of PCMAS.

In the first stage of the development of the second generation of PCMAS, the common elements of university institutions that have teacher certification programs were identified; these were compared with the professional standards of the teacher and the various academic disciplines. The elements were also discussed in the light of the Reference Document for the Review, Creation and Development of University Courses in the Preparation of Teachers and the Similar Tests used in the United States (PRAXIS).

In 1999, an Inventory of the Professional Functions of Teachers was also carried out to determine what tasks they perform in the classroom, as well as the knowledge, skills and skills they deem necessary to perform effectively in their profession.

Based on these analyses, the Examining Committees developed the specifications of the tests, which were subsequently validated by committees consisting of university professors and teachers of public and private schools.

In the second stage, the drafters were trained and the professional skills tests - Elementary and Secondary Level, and the Specialization Tests in Science and Social Studies/History.

Finally, the exercises were validated by pre-tests administered to a population similar to the one that would be examined in the tests.

In March 2001, the Elementary and Secondary Level Professional Competence Tests, as well as the Science and Social Studies/History Professional Skills Tests, were administered for the first time. In March 2002, the revised Spanish, English and Mathematics Specialization Tests were administered, as well as the Fundamental Knowledge and Communication Competencies Tests.

In March 2007, the approval points for the eight PCMAS tests were established and three different methods were used for the establishment of PCMAS, these were: the Modified Angoff, the "Benchmark" or Edges method and the Cluster Analysis Method, which is a totally statistical empirical method. The objective of this effort is to analyze the minimum competencies of the highly qualified teacher as established by the federal "No Child Left Behind" (NCLB) law.

Approval points have been reassessed in 2010 and will soon be established by the Department of Education. During 2015

### **Get to know the evidence**

The best way to prepare for tests is to familiarize yourself with your organization, the types of questions that will appear on them, and what you are expected of on test day. To make sure you are ready to examine yourself, you should:

Read this newsletter, which contains all the necessary information about the tests. Don't rule it out! You may want to reread it to review before the test or to answer questions that may arise. As you read this newsletter, look at those parts that seem important to you or that are confusing to you. You can return to them when you have finished reading the entire booklet.

Study the examples and explanations. These give you a complete idea of the questions that appear in the tests. The more you become familiar with the examples, the more comfortable you'll feel when you see the questions in your exam booklet.

Study and understand the instructions for testing. Some of the instructions for answering questions appear here in exactly the same way they have been printed on the exam booklet. Familiarize yourself with them and you will be made easier to understand on the day of the exam.

### What's in it

The Fundamental Knowledge and Professional Competence exercises are multi-select and last approximately two hours and twenty minutes. In addition, the test includes a pedagogical situation with discussion exercises that are answered in thirty-five minutes.

The content areas of the test are as follows:

#### Fundamental Knowledge

- Social Sciences
- Humanities
- Natural Sciences
- Math
- Spanish
- English

#### Professional Skills

- Methodology
- Evaluation and Research
- Educational Philosophy
- Educational Sociology
- Human Development
- Educational Psychology

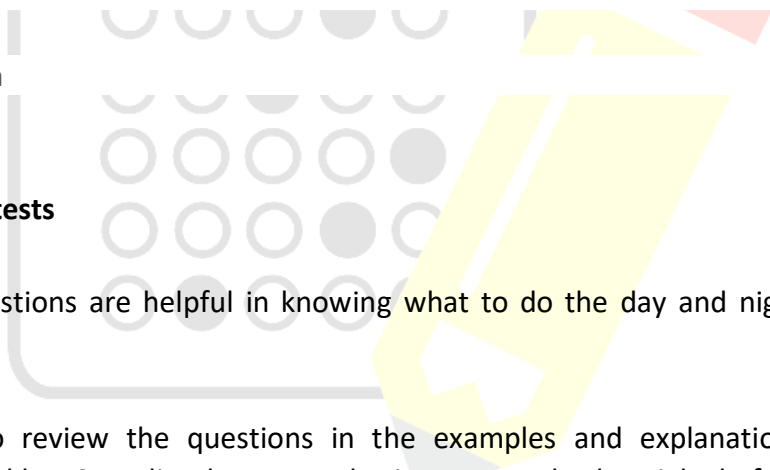
#### Analysis of a pedagogical situation

##### **The day before the tests**

The following suggestions are helpful in knowing what to do the day and night before the test.

Take some time to review the questions in the examples and explanations provided in this booklet. Spending hours on the intense study the night before probably won't help your test performance and may even make you more anxious.

Prepare a short review of the information you had previously studied is likely to make you feel more comfortable and prepared. To do this, use the content sketch presented here.



## Check list for PCMAS

### Before testing

Organize the materials you'll need on test day and place them in a convenient place to pick them up in the morning. Remember to bring the following:

- Admission ticket
- Photo ID
- No. 2 pencils with eraser
- Instructions for getting to the test center that's right for you
- Calculator (scientific calculator for science specialty students or four basic function calculator for those who require it according to authorized accommodating)

### Identifications you can submit

- Driver's license
- Card or college card
- Passport or voter card

### The day of the tests

So that you can easily locate yourself at your test center, we recommend that you arrive on time. **General PCMAS** are offered in the morning, starting at 8:00 a.m. **PCMAS Specialty** is offered in the afternoon, starting at 1:30 p.m.

### What not to bring

- Electronic devices, including digital watches that can be used to record, transmit, receive or reproduce photographic, audio, text or video content
- Audio players or recorders, tablets, laptops, Google Glass or any other personal computing device
- iPod or other MP3 player
- iPad or other type of tablet
- Cell phones
- Any texting device
- Cameras or any other photographic equipment
- Calculators (if not authorized)
- Compass, rules and scissors
- Pens, pencils, crayons or markers
- Books, brochures or papers of any kind

- Dictionaries
- Food or beverages (unless reasonable accommodation requires consumption)

### **Remember to turn off your electronic equipment**

The College Board takes safety and peace of mind seriously during the testing process. This is why you should turn off your electronics, including your cell phone, during testing and even during breaks.

### **If you are carrying or using electronic equipment**

Once the test begins, the test management staff will warn you about using the cell phone and other electronics. If your phone makes noise or uses it at any time, even during breaks, your test will be canceled. The College Board is not responsible for the loss of personal property or damage to personal items.

### **Exam schedule**

The Basic Battery will be offered in two sessions. The first consists of the Fundamental Knowledge and Communication Competences Test and will be offered in the morning, starting at 8:00 a.m. The second session consists of the Elementary and Secondary Level Professional Competence Tests, which the candidate will select according to the Certificate to which he/she aspires. They will be offered during the afternoon, starting at approximately 1:00 p.m.

Candidates under consideration for the first time must participate in the two sessions, as it is the Department of Education's requirement to be examined in both tests. Candidates who repeat a test should attend the appropriate session, in the morning or afternoon, as the case may be.

## **II. Steps by the Department**

1. Promotion date guidance for requirements
2. Candidate orientation:  
**Months:** January-February  
**Days:** Tuesday and Thursday  
**Hours:** 12:00-1:30 / 4:30-6:00
3. Individualized Interviews
4. Application delivery
5. Authorization

**III. Interviews**

Before a candidate is recommended to complete the application for the Teacher License (PCMAS) it is interviewed and documented that the candidate meets the knowledge of the content, laws, state standards so that he or she can effectively teach with positive impacts on the learning and development of elementary-level students.

**1. Medular courses**

<b>Medullary</b>	<b>Taken</b>	<b>Not Taken</b>	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>Spanish</b>			
<b>Math</b>			
<b>Social Sciences</b>			
<b>Humanities</b>			
<b>Sciences</b>			

**2. Specialized Courses**

<b>Specialized Courses</b>	<b>Taken</b>	<b>Not Taken</b>	<b>In Progress</b>
<b>Human Growth and Development</b>			
<b>Social Foundations of Education</b>			
<b>Philosophical foundations of education</b>			
<b>Learning Assessment</b>			
<b>Curriculum and Teaching Seminar</b>			

In what benefits you:

As of 2019 scores obtained in the PCMAS will be considered for the award of points for Eligible Register. CHAPTER V: ASPIRING TEACHERS Article 5.01.-Requirements for Aspiring Teachers. (Law 85)

The recruitment process in each Education Region will be carried out through an Eligible Register and will be used only when places are available. The applicant's position in the Register of Eligibles will be based primarily is a points system. In addition to the requirements to be adopted by regulation, the recruitment process shall take into account:

1. Scores obtained in the PCMAS by applicants;
2. Academic preparation;



3. The academic index;
4. Years of experience;
5. If you were a veteran;
6. If you have a disability;
7. The place of residence.

**\*\*For additional information see *Basic Battery Guidance Bulletin 2011-2012*.**

