

## WHAT TESTS WILL I HAVE TO TAKE?

Anyone completing the necessary requirements for Teacher Certification in the State of Illinois must take and pass the Certification Tests required by the state for their degree area.

VanderCook students (called “candidates” by ISBE) must take and pass 3 tests: The Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), the Music Content Test and the Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) Test (Special K-12 Version).

## WHEN MUST I TAKE AND PASS THESE TESTS?

The TAP is a part of our institutional Teacher Candidate Skills Assessment (TCSA) requirement (see TCSA FAQ Sheet) and must be passed by the end of Level 2 of study. (This means by the completion of Theory IV and Applied Study 212). (It is advised that you take it as soon as possible after starting your studies.)

The Music Content Test must be passed before applying to Student Teach. (Plan to take it during your Level 3 work.)

The APT Test must be passed before VanderCook will entitle you for certification. (Most candidates take it during their student teaching semester).

## WHAT IS ON THESE TESTS?

The TAP assesses competence in language arts (grammar, structure, etc.), reading comprehension, writing and math.

The Music Content Test assesses your knowledge of music theory, listening, creating and performing music, music history and culture and music education.

The APT Test examines professional teaching skills such as planning of instruction, assessment, classroom management, relationships with students/colleagues/administrators/parents/community, educational technology and childhood development. There are two writing exercises as a part of this test.

## WHERE CAN I FIND OUT MORE DETAIL, AND ARE THERE STUDY GUIDES?

For all official information about these tests, go to [www.icts.nesinc.com](http://www.icts.nesinc.com). The website includes the dates of all scheduled tests, deadlines for registration, and practice tests.

## HOW MUCH DO THEY COST, AND HOW DO I REGISTER?

The tests currently cost \$86-\$125 each (varies by test). Registration is done online at [www.icts.nesinc.com](http://www.icts.nesinc.com). NOTE: There are only a few test dates each year and registration deadlines are 1-2 months before the test dates, so PLAN AHEAD! (Test dates and deadlines are also posted throughout the VanderCook building.) Plan for the expense of these tests; it is far more costly to have your degree completion delayed because you did not meet the test requirements!

## CAN I RE-TAKE THEM IF I FAIL?

ISBE now allows unlimited attempts to pass each test, but requires a 60-day waiting period between test attempts.

On the TAP, if you pass two out of four sections, the two you passed will be banked and you can attempt the other sections until they have been successfully completed. For the Music Content and APT, you either pass the entire test, or fail the entire test. There is no banking of sections.

Prepare to pass any of these tests on the first try, but PLAN AHEAD and leave yourself time to re-take a test if necessary.

## DO I NEED TO TURN IN MY SCORES?

You should email your dean a screenshot of the official “pass” from your ELIS account.