

Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.)

Frequently Asked Questions

Why do most 11th graders in the state of Florida have to take the PERT in 2012?

Section 1008.30 of Revised House Bill 1255 states:

'The common placement testing program shall include at a minimum the following: the capacity to diagnose basic competencies in the areas of English, reading, and mathematics which are essential to perform college-level work...'

The law requires high schools to evaluate college-readiness of students in eleventh grade. High schools will administer the P.E.R.T. (or other approved assessment) starting fall 2011. Other approved assessments that can be used to demonstrate readiness - ACT, SAT, CPT. Students who do not meet college ready scores will be required to complete postsecondary preparatory instruction before graduation.

What is the PERT?

The Postsecondary Education Readiness Test (P.E.R.T.) is Florida's common placement test. This test is used by all 28 Florida colleges to determine if a student is ready for college credit courses in reading, writing and math. The P.E.R.T. has been aligned with the Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs) that Florida's faculty identified as necessary for success in entry-level college credit coursework.

How is the test designed?

Computer adaptive test (C.A.T.) Reading, writing and mathematics subtests. There are 25 operational questions on each subtest plus 5 field test questions. Each test item is aligned with a PRC. All items have been approved and aligned by Florida faculty. There are accommodations available.

What are Postsecondary Reading Competencies (PRC)?

The Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs) are skills identified by high school, college and state university faculty as critical to college readiness in mathematics, reading and writing. These are a true assessment of what students need to know before enrolling in ENC 1101 and MAT 1033. The PRC are based on courses in the Statewide Course Numbering System (i.e., Florida content). PERT is aligned to Florida's Postsecondary Readiness Competencies (PRCs).

What are the average test times?

For the computer-based test, average administration times are:

- Mathematics – 37 minutes
- Reading – 1 hour, 3 minutes
- Writing – 33 minutes

Which students will need to take the Postsecondary Education Readiness Test?

- College readiness evaluation is required for students who score
- Grade 10 FCAT 2.0 Reading (Levels 2 or 3)
- Grade 10 FCAT Mathematics (Levels 2, 3, or 4)
- A student who has met the college-ready cut scores does not need to take the P.E.R.T.
- Special Diploma students for whom the IEP specifies that the FCAT is an appropriate assessment
- Department of Juvenile Justice students
- Charter School students
- Full-time public virtual school students

How else can a student demonstrate college readiness?

A student can demonstrate college readiness by placing on or above the cut scores for the following tests:

PERT		Accuplacer (CPT)		SAT-1		ACT	
Math	113	Elem. Algebra	72	Math	440	Math	19
Reading	104	Reading	83	Reading	440	Reading	18
Writing	99	Sentence Skills	83			English	17

What are the Postsecondary Preparatory Instruction Courses for 2012-13?

Districts may choose which postsecondary preparatory instruction courses to offer from the following approved courses:

- Math for College Success (1200410) - 0.5 credit
- Reading for College Success (1008350) – 0.5 credit
- Writing for College Success (1009370) – 0.5 credit
- English 4: College Prep (1001405) – 1.0 credit
- Math for College Readiness (1200700) – 1.0 credit

Refer to the Comprehensive Course Table: https://www.osfaffelp.org/bfiehs/fnbpcm02_CCTMain.aspx

Are there student accommodations for P.E.R.T.?

Yes, the following accommodations are available to students with documented approval of accommodations during testing.

- Computer Adaptive Test – primary
- Students who have an IEP or 504 plan that authorizes accommodations on standardized tests are eligible for P.E.R.T. accommodations
- Paper version
- Large print paper version
- Braille version
- English Language Learners (ELL) Student Plans specify allowable accommodations
- Heritage language-to-English or English-to-heritage language dictionary

How is the P.E.R.T. administered in the school districts?

- Each district determines testing window (open until end of school year)
- Test administration personnel will receive training by district
- Test may be administered during regular school hours or at other times
- Scores are readily available to districts for computer test
- On-screen calculators will appear for specific mathematics items

Where can I find more information on the Florida graduation requirements referencing the PERT?

Check online at the Florida Department of Education's Graduation Requirement's page
<http://www.fldoe.org/BII/StudentPro/grad-require.asp>

Where can I find additional P.E.R.T. resources?

- P.E.R.T Website - <http://www.fldoe.org/cc/pert.asp>
- P.E.R.T PowerPoint presentation
- Cut-scores and matching college courses
- Florida Statutes
- State Board Rules
- Data and Reports
- P.E.R.T Frequently Asked Questions
- P.E.R.T Study Guide

Who may I contact for follow-up questions?

- If you have questions related to your district's P.E.R.T. administration, please contact Candy Amato at candy.amato@polk-fl.net.
- The George Jenkins P.E.R.T. Testing Coordinator is Anita Puissegur. Her contact information is anita.puissegur@polk-fl.net.
- If you have general P.E.R.T. questions, please send them to pert@fldoe.org.