



## **ACADEMIC ALERT #2008-04**

**DATE:** February 2008

**DECISION:** National College of Education (NCE)

**Removal of Illinois Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) as an Admission Requirement for Certification Candidates Tested and Certified in another State**

**RATIONALE:**

At this time, all applicants to a certification program in NCE must pass the Illinois Test of Basic Skills (ITBS) as an admission requirement. However, some applicants have been certified in other states where a similar test is required (e. g., Praxis in Wisconsin, and CBST in California).

Current ISBE policy states:

Individuals who hold a *valid, comparable certificate* from another state, possession, or territory of the United States who apply for Illinois certification on or after July 1, 2004, will *not* be required to pass the Illinois Certification Testing System (ICTS) Basic Skills Test *if* they meet the following criteria:

**IF:** They have not previously attempted and failed the ICTS Basic Skills test;  
**AND:** They meet one of the following conditions:

(1) The out-of-state certificate was issued before June 30, 2004

**OR**

(2) The individual was required to pass a test of basic skills to obtain the certificate from the other state.

**APPROVALS:** Senate Academic Planning Committee Approval: February 14, 2008  
Faculty Senate Approval: Point of Information; Not Required  
Provost Approval: Point of Information; Not Required

**IMPLEMENTATION DATE:** April 7, 2008

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**SIGNATURE**

**Carol R. Melnick, Ph.D.**  
Vice Provost

## **NLU POLICY**

The Graduate Admission and Retention (A & R) Council passed a recommendation that eliminated the ITBS as an admission requirement for certified teachers from other states who have taken and passed a similar test.

Illinois applicants applying for additional certification who have current, initial certification in another state must submit copies of their current teaching certification AND passing scores on the equivalent basic skills test required by the state in which their certification was issued in order for the Illinois Test of Basic Skills requirement to be waived. This information must be verified by Admissions.

## **IMPLEMENTATION**

All changes need to be entered in Banner and CAPP.

Enrollment representatives for the National College of Education need to be fully knowledgeable about this ITBS policy.

Marketing materials need to reflect this change, and the change needs to be added to all the appropriate locations on NLU's website.

The new catalog copy will be written and submitted to the Vice Provost and Assistant Registrar for Schedules and Catalogs to ensure that catalog copy is prepared and ready for the next catalog, 2008-2009.