To: Freshman and Sophomore Teacher Certification Candidates  
From: Kelly Lawton, Assistant Director of Teacher Licensure and Assessment  
Date: January 31, 2012  
Re: Test of Basic Skills, Illinois Certification Testing System

The Test of Basic Skills (300) is a state-wide requirement for Admission to Teacher Education, and required for admittance to the IWU Teacher Education Program and enrollment in upper level coursework. You must pass all subareas of the test to meet the requirement. Registration and information for all required state tests is available at: http://www.icts.nesinc.com/index.asp

The Test of Basic Skills is being replaced with the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) (400). The subject matter of the test has not changed, but additional questions have been added so there is a sufficient number to provide valid and helpful feedback on the subareas tested. Probability questions were added to align with the common core.

The TAP test (400) will replace the previous computer based test in February 2012. The paper based Test of Basic Skills (300) will continue to be offered in February and April of 2012. Students who have signed up for June or July paper-based tests will be contacted by ICTS to schedule a computer based test.

The TAP will only be available on-line at Pearson Vue Centers. Students can schedule a time to test Monday through Saturday when the Centers are open. (Note, at this time the closest Pearson Vue Center is in Peoria). The cost of the new test is 170.00. (compared to 84.00 for the paper-based exam). Students needing to retake one subarea will be charged a reduced fee of 79.00.

Students who have “banked” passing scores on the current Test of Basic Skill (300) will be allowed to count those scores towards the new test.

Given the high stakes nature of this test and other required certification tests, please take measures to prepare for the test. Sitting repeatedly for a test will also be costly. Study materials for both tests are listed below.

**Sophomores**
Sophomores who plan to apply to the TEP this spring should take the paper-based test (300) on February 11th. The state has indicated that it will take several months to set passing scores for the new exam, and verification of a passing score is a requirement for TEP admittance. The paper based test is also less expensive. ($84.00 vs. $170.00).

**First Year Students**
First year students should complete the Test of Basic Skills/Test of Academic Proficiency requirement by the end of fall, sophomore year. Registration information is available at: http://www.icts.nesinc.com/index.asp Students electing to take the test in April, may choose to
take the paper based Test of Basic Skills (300) in February or April, or sign up for the computer based Test of Academic Proficiency (400). The regular registration deadline for the April test is March 2nd.

**Preparation Materials:**

**Test of Basic Skills (300)**

**Additional resources:**
- Basic Skills Preparation Program (developed by Illinois Community College Board) is a web-based tutorial that works through all areas covered on the Basic Skills Test. You must register at [www.basicskillsprep.org](http://www.basicskillsprep.org) by clicking “Register Student” and then entering our passcode: NUJUK5NNLG.
- Commercial Guides (Illinois Basic Skills Test and ACT Study Guides) –These study guides can be found at bookstores or on-line through sites such as Amazon.

**Test of Academic Proficiency (400)**

Please contact me if you have questions about State testing requirements.

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