¿Cuáles son los exámenes estatales que necesito pasar para certificarme como maestra/o bilingüe en Texas?

To become a certified Bilingual teacher in Texas (EC-6 Bilingual), students need to pass 5 state teacher certification exams:

- 160 – Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities
- 164 – Bilingual Education Supplemental
- 190 – BTLPT – Spanish (Bilingual Target Language Proficiency Test in Spanish)
- 391 – Core Subjects EC-6
- 293 – Science of Teaching Reading exam

¿Cuándo debe tomar mis exámenes de certificación?

Students always want to know when is the best time to take the certification exams and are often eager to take them as soon as possible. However, it is important to realize that sooner is not always better than later when it comes to certification exams. The timing of the exams is crucial to a student’s success in passing each of the required exams. In deciding when to take each exam, it is important to consider whether a student has completed the course(s) that cover the content that will appear on a specific exam. For this reason, we advise students to be strategic in scheduling each exam, based on the courses they have completed and also their Spanish language proficiency for the BTLPT/Exam 190.

Based on the sequence of courses in our degree plan, we recommend that students take one exam at the end of their first semester in our program (Block I) or immediately afterwards:

- 160 – Pedagogy and Professional Responsibilities

In the beginning/middle of their second semester (Block 2), we recommend students schedule and take the following exam:

- 164 – Bilingual Education Supplemental

At the end of the second semester (Block 2), we recommend students take the following exams:

- 391 – Core Subjects EC-6
- 293 – Science of Teaching Reading exam

190 – BTLPT – The BTLPT is a wildcard, as success on this exam depends on each student’s level of Spanish proficiency rather than on course content. For students with strong Spanish literacy proficiency (typically those educated in K-12 schools in Mexico or in other Spanish-speaking contexts) or students who participated in a strong dual language program in the U.S., we recommend taking the BTLPT very early on in their program. Other students may need more time to improve their Spanish proficiency before taking the test, and for these students, we recommend taking the BTLPT at the end of Block 2 or even during student teaching.

What does this mean for student teaching and students’ ability to become certified quickly and apply for teaching positions as fully certified teachers?

Because TEA has recently added a new test (293--Science of Teaching Reading) and because Bilingual/Biliteracy Elementary Education students are required to take an additional certification test (190—BTLPT-Spanish) than students seeking the Generalist certification, it is likely that some students seeking bilingual certification will finish their exams during their student teaching semester. We would
like advisors, OEP staff engaged in student teaching placements, and especially student teaching supervisors, to be aware of this so that Bilingual/Biliteracy students, and the campuses and districts that accept them as student teachers, understand that students may need to miss one or more days of student teaching in order to take one or more of their certification exams. In these cases, students are required to inform their cooperating teacher and student teaching supervisor in advance about scheduled test dates that take place during the student teaching semester. It is the student’s responsibility to make up student teaching days that are missed due to testing. This flexibility will allow more students to complete state teacher certification requirements in an efficient manner and become eligible to apply for teaching positions without waiting an additional semester.