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## PEER REVIEW FAQ

### What is Peer Review?

Peer Review is The Vermont Agency of Education's alternate route to licensure. The Peer Review Program is for individuals who have acquired the knowledge and skills needed to meet the *Vermont CORE Teaching Standards and Progression Indicators* and the competencies and requirements of the endorsement sought through a combination of coursework and experiences rather than through a traditional educator preparation program. Candidates demonstrate proficiency by developing a formal portfolio that is evaluated by a panel of expert educators in the endorsement sought. Successful Peer Review candidates may be recommended for an initial educator license or for adding an endorsement to an existing license.

### What is required for acceptance into the Peer Review Program?

To be accepted to the Peer Review Program, applicants must meet the following qualifications:

- Hold a degree (BA/ BS/BFA) with some content in the endorsement area you are seeking. (Grade "B" or better). Some endorsements also require a specified advanced degree.
- All testing requirements Praxis Core or Equivalent & Praxis II (if applicable) for the endorsement you are seeking must be completed prior to submitting an application (Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017).

### What do I need to include in a Peer Review application?

You will need to apply for the Peer Review program in our [Online System \(ALiS\)](#):

- If you are seeking **initial licensure** you will need to log on and click "apply for new license" from the menu. Select NO to all the Preliminary Questions. You will then be prompted to select the Alternate Route you are pursuing. Choose Peer Review and complete the application.
- If you are seeking **an additional endorsement** you will need to log on and click "add new endorsement" from the menu. Select Peer Review as your route and complete the application.

For a Peer Review application to be complete, the following must be included as part of the Online application:

- Official* undergraduate and graduate (if applicable) transcripts with the degree and date conferred indicated (these must be sent via mail or electronically to [AOE.transcripts@vermont.gov](mailto:AOE.transcripts@vermont.gov))
- Official* Praxis Core or equivalent passing test scores and Praxis II (if applicable) passing test scores (these must be sent electronically).
- A current resume

## **Do I have to take Praxis tests prior to submitting a Peer Review Application?**

Effective July 1<sup>st</sup>, 2017, both the *Praxis Core Academic Skills Test* or one of the acceptable alternative exams and the content Praxis II for the endorsement sought (**if applicable**) must be completed and passed prior to submitting your Peer Review Application. Additionally, evidence of these exams must be included in your portfolio.

For more information on testing requirements, please review our [testing information page](#).

## **Do I need to student teach?**

Regulations state that anyone seeking initial licensure must submit “evidence of at least **13 consecutive weeks** of student teaching, or an equivalent learning experience” (General Requirement #3). If you have not completed student teaching but have a substantial amount of supervised experiences working with students in the endorsement area you seek at the PK-12 level, your panel *may* determine that you have had an “equivalent learning experience.”

## **How long does it take to go through Peer Review?**

The answer to this question depends mainly on how quickly you complete your portfolio and the outcome of the Peer Review Panel’s evaluation of your work. It can take up to two (2) months from the time a portfolio is accepted for an interview to be scheduled, depending on the time of year, and panelist availability. Once a candidate receives a letter of recommendation from their panelists, an applicant must then apply for initial licensure, which can take 2-3 months (fingerprinting). Licensing Specialists can issue letters of eligibility for approved applicants to present to potential employers. Please keep in mind that March through August is the busiest time for Peer Review portfolio submissions, and it could take longer to complete the process if you submit a portfolio during these months.

## **How long do I have to submit my portfolio once it has been determined that I am accepted into the Peer Review Program?**

You have **one year** from the date of your acceptance letter to submit your portfolio. If you are unable to submit your portfolio within the year, you will need to apply for an extension to your Peer Review Program acceptance, including paying the Peer Review Application fee.

## **What if the endorsement competencies change before I submit my Peer Review Portfolio?**

If you submit your Portfolio within the ONE-year Peer Review Program deadline or by the deadline of your first extension request (TWO years from your acceptance into the program) you will be required to show how you have satisfied the endorsement competencies as they existed at the time of your acceptance into the program. If you do not complete your portfolio by the extension deadline, you will have to reapply to Peer Review and meet any new testing or competencies/standards (if these competencies have been revised since your initial acceptance).

**Is there reciprocity for licenses obtained through Vermont’s Peer Review Program with other states?**

This depends upon the state in which you are seeking reciprocity. Some states who participate in the NASDTEC Interstate Reciprocity contract do not recognize licenses obtained through any alternate routes. The best way to find out is to contact the licensing or certification office of the state in which you are seeking licensure.

**Does a Vermont license obtained through Peer Review look any different than one obtained by completing an approved program?**

No, there is nothing on the license that indicates that the person went through Peer Review as an alternative to a traditional preparation program. However, a review of your transcripts would show that you did not complete an approved educator licensing program.