

State, national, or board certification exams

Response from Tina Aguirre, Instructional Dean of Health & Public Safety

Nursing RN

TEAS test is used as a screening tool to get into the program. TEAS is used for nearly all community college programs in California and even other states. TEAS has been validated and is normed every time it is updated. The state is the major player in requiring the TEAS and setting the cut score.

ATI tests are standardized and 1 to 4 are given in each of the 4 semesters of program. ATI is one of the top 2 entities that provide this service and has been validated. Cut scores. Faculty review the process each semester. This is the norm for all nursing programs to ensure competency and knowledge acquisition

Nursing VN

ATI tests 1-3 are given each semester of the 3 semester program.. Cut scores are defined. Faculty review the process every semester. This is the norm for nearly all programs to ensure knowledge acquisition.

EMT

A National Registry practicum exam is given at the conclusion of each course and must be passed in order to take the written national exam. The National Registry practicum exam is regulated in content, scoring, cut score, etc..

EMT-P. Paramedic

Same as EMT with the content / skills at the higher level as regulated by the national accrediting body.

FIRE

The Office of State Fire Marshall and/or other state agency regulating fire courses and their content requires specific tests to be completed at a preset score to achieve the certificate form then state for each course.

Response from Toni Pfister, Instructor/SLO Coordinator

I use a standardized Am Red Cross written (multiple choice exam) and practical exams for PE 122 (lifeguarding) and PE 123 (water safety). The reason is that if I follow ARC's curriculum and exams, then I can award Nationally recognized certifications. I don't want to forward copies but if you need more specifics, I could give them.

Response from Edward Wells, P.O.S.T. Coordinator

We use standardized exams in all of the P.O.S.T. Classes. They are created and regulated through the Commission on Peace Officer Standards and Training in

Sacramento. We are not allowed to keep or maintain the exams on file, once they have been given. And we cannot share the exam with you prior to its being administered to the class. These tests are regulated by the State and we are required under the security agreement to secure these tests. If the test is compromised then the college is liable for the replacement costs of creating a new test battery for that Learning Domain. This covers every college in the State of California that does P.O.S.T. training and can cost \$50,000.00 dollars per test. The tests have been analyzed and the rationale for the standardization is due to the licensing of Law Enforcement personnel and the regulations within the Penal Code, Government Code, Administration Code and the accompanying laws enacted by the legislature. Every peace officer in the state is required to have taken these tests and they are the minimum qualification standard throughout the state. Each college that presents the training program is regulated, inspected and re-examined twice yearly to ensure they meet the state requirements for that type of law enforcement training. P.O.S.T. also measures the success rate of a program against other programs within the state. I can run those results and often do, to compare how we are doing against other programs and "Academies" within the state. That is also part of the standardization and regulations for this program.

I am sure that nursing, fire, paramedics, etc. all have these types or similar requirements and testing. If I could show you an exam, I would. But if I did, then they would shut us down like Rio Hondo. I hope you understand.

Collected by Jim Fisher, 9-9-11