

### Puerto Rico Teacher Specialization Certification Exam Results 2014-2016

The CollegeBoard® introduces the Puerto Rico Teacher Specialization Certification Exams as follows: *The Science, Spanish, English, Social Studies/History, and Math specialization tests are designed for teacher candidates in these disciplines. These tests measure the knowledge and skills needed to teach each subject competently. The test contents are based on curricular analyses of institutions of higher education and the Puerto Rico Department of Education's definition of a competent teacher in the field as published in official documents* (see page 3 of <https://cboard.odoo.com/slides/slide/boletin-especialidades-pcmas-7> for the original introduction in Spanish).

The following table shows the passing rates of UPRM graduates on each of the Puerto Rico Teacher Specialization Certification exams over the past three years. The exams are offered on a Saturday in March of each calendar year. Over the past three years 88% of the attempts by UPRM have been successful on the specialization certification exams.

Specialization Certification Exam PCMAS	Data 2014-2016	UPRM	ALL
Teaching Secondary English	N	39	812
	# Passing	34	597
	% Passing	87%	74%
Teaching Secondary Social Studies or History	N	60	297
	# Passing	47	224
	% Passing	78%	75%
Teaching Secondary Mathematics	N	22	198
	# Passing	22	154
	% Passing	100%	78%
Teaching Secondary Science	N	38	268
	# Passing	37	218
	% Passing	97%	81%
Teaching Secondary Spanish	N	15	227
	# Passing	13	183
	% Passing	87%	81%
All Secondary Specialization Areas	N	174	1802
	# Passing	153	1376
	% Passing	88%	76%

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With the exception of the Secondary Social Science/History Teacher Certification exam, 87% or more of UPRM graduates passed each of the specialization certification exams. Over the past three years, 3 UPRM Social Science teacher candidates have taken the exam a total of 7 times. This means that in fact 47 of 56 (84%) UPRM Secondary Social Science or History Teacher candidates have passed their certification exam. The low success rate in Social Science is a matter of concern to inform decision making to improve instruction. Noting that four parts of the exam are on history and one on social science, an inspection of candidate transcripts confirmed that success is closely correlated with adequate preparation in history. In collaboration with the UPRM Department of Social Sciences, the TPP identified specific history courses that Social Science teacher candidates need to succeed on the exam. Since 2011, the UPRM TPP has required Social Science teacher candidates to complete specific history courses before enrolling in Teaching Practice.

A subsequent table provides a year by year comparison of test results in greater detail. Historically, the highest score on 1 to 4 Puerto Rico Specialization Teacher Certification exams has been made by a UPRM teacher candidate each year. This year UPRM teacher candidates made the highest scores on the Mathematics, English, and Spanish Specialization Exams. Last year two UPRM teacher candidates tied for the top score on the Mathematics Specialization exam. Given that UPRM teacher candidates account for 5 - 20% of the test takers for any one specialization exam, this attests to the breadth and depth of their preparation in licensure area content. The following table includes the top<sup>T</sup> scores by UPRM candidates for the past three years.

Until 2016, the CollegeBoard<sup>®</sup> institutional report on Puerto Rico's Teacher Certification Exams did not include the median, minimum or maximum scores for the institution. In those cases an estimate<sup>e</sup> is provided. The estimate is deduced from the individual scores released in the report. Most (90% or more), but not all, UPRM teacher candidates allow CollegeBoard<sup>®</sup> to release their scores to UPRM. So there is a good basis for these estimates.

*The Science Specialization exam covers biology, chemistry, physics, and statistics and probability. The English Specialization exam covers Linguistics, literature, teaching English as a second language. The Spanish Specialization exam covers general language concepts, spelling and morphosyntax, American Spanish, non-literary text, and literary text. The Social Studies/History Specialization exam covers Puerto Rican history, U. S. history of States United, Latin American history, Ancient and Medieval history and Social Science. The Math Specialization exam covers numbers and operations, algebraic structures, relations and functions, Euclidean and analytic geometry, measurement and analysis, and statistics and probability. (Translated from <https://cboard.odoo.com/slides/slide/boletin-especialidades-pcmas-7>).*

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Certification Exam	Data	2016		2015		2014	
		UPRM	ALL	UPRM	ALL	UPRM	ALL
Teaching Secondary English	N	9	241	14	273	16	298
	# Passing	9	198	12	214	13	185
	% Passing	100%	82%	86%	78%	81%	62%
	Median	111	95	118 <sup>e</sup>	108	109 <sup>e</sup>	103
	Average	114	95	114	109	110	104
	Min	92	40	82 <sup>e</sup>	<80	92 <sup>e</sup>	<80
	Max	148 <sup>T</sup>	148	140	<150	<140	<140
Teaching Secondary Social Studies or History	N	9	63	20	95	31	139
	# Passing	6	51	15	67	26	106
	% Passing	67%	81%	75%	71%	84%	76%
	Median	87	99	104 <sup>e</sup>	105	115 <sup>e</sup>	105
	Average	89	97	104	105	107	106
	Min	63	54	75 <sup>e</sup>	<80	88 <sup>e</sup>	<80
	Max	117	133	134	<140	140 <sup>e</sup>	<150
Teaching Secondary Mathematics	N	2	50	9	62	11	86
	# Passing	2	39	9	51	11	64
	% Passing	100%	78%	100%	82%	100%	74%
	Median	112	94	124 <sup>e</sup>	105	115 <sup>e</sup>	98
	Average	112	91	135	106	116	100
	Min	40	40	112 <sup>e</sup>	<80	91 <sup>e</sup>	<70
	Max	135 <sup>T</sup>	135	151 <sup>T</sup>	151	141 <sup>e</sup>	<150
Teaching Secondary Science	N	13	76	11	90	14	102
	# Passing	13	65	11	71	13	82
	% Passing	100%	86%	100%	79%	93%	80%
	Median	104	94	124 <sup>e</sup>	113	112 <sup>e</sup>	103
	Average	105	95	125	110	109	104
	Min	88	58	112 <sup>e</sup>	<80	86 <sup>e</sup>	<80
	Max	129	140	135	<150	122 <sup>e</sup>	<140
Teaching Secondary Spanish	N	3	62	3	67	9	98
	# Passing	3	57	3	53	7	73
	% Passing	100%	92%	100%	79%	78%	74%
	Median	132	109	102 <sup>e</sup>	105	114 <sup>e</sup>	101
	Average	136	109	110	105	108	104
	Min	127	59	100 <sup>e</sup>	<80	77 <sup>e</sup>	<50
	Max	149 <sup>T</sup>	149	104	<150	124	<150