

Name:

Date:

## About Your Study Plan

This Study Plan comprises the materials and resources available to a candidate. We encourage you to use your ABCTE Program Advising team to target your preparation to your needs and goals.

There will be hyperlinks throughout this document. Please make sure that you visit the relevant pages to access all of the resources.

Your commitment to great teaching begins here. The effort you put in will not only help you pass the test but will also prepare you to become a successful teacher.

## How to study:

ABCTE is committed to making sure you are the best possible teacher.

We will provide you with study tips to get ready for the exam and both the content and resources to review this material. It is your job to commit to preparing and stay dedicated while studying.

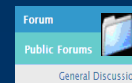
Think of the Snapshot below as an overview for what you need to know. For more detail in each topic, review the exam [standards](#). The ABCTE exams are based on this blueprint, so consider this a syllabus for what you want to study.

## ABCTE Teacher Forums:

Become a part of your ABCTE community by participating in the online ABCTE Teacher Forums today!

You can discuss the program, ask questions, and learn what other candidates have done to succeed in their classrooms.

<http://www.abcte.org/forums>



## Special Education Exam Snapshot

<b>Time Allowed</b>	240 minutes for multiple-choice	
<b>Format</b>	Multiple-choice	
<b>Number of Questions</b>	125 multiple-choice questions	
<b>On-Screen Exhibits</b>	None	
<b>Passing Score</b>	Proficient: 278 Distinguished: 312	(The number of questions answered correctly is converted to a scaled score ranging from 0 to 500. Writing component scores range from 0 to 6.)
<b>Exam Summary</b>	<b>Content Domains</b>	<b>Approximate Percentage of Examination</b>
	Professional Skills and Background Knowledge	22%
	Understanding the Special Needs Student	23%
	General Special Education Practices	37%
	Language Development Strategies	18%

**About This Exam** The American Board for Certification of Teacher Excellence believes that highly skilled special education teachers should possess a comprehensive body of knowledge that is research-based and promotes student achievement. The special education exam is designed for candidates who intend to teach in any pre-K-12 special education program. The topics assessed include the basic principles of special education, including the foundations of special education, language development, assessment, and instructional delivery.

**Test Day Tip: Exam Familiarity** – Did you know that your clock starts the moment you start the test? That means reading the instructions is part of the timed test. Knowing what the instructions say before you go into the testing center gives you a slight advantage. That way you simply skim through the instructions for any surprises and then get right into the exam.



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## The Study Plan:

Your study plan includes direction on how to use ABCTE's resources. We also include recommended resources to aid in your mastery. The full description of these can always be found at <http://www.abcte.org/teach/special-education-standards>. You should also rate these resources whenever possible.

This plan was designed for a 9 month period (4 months for Professional Teaching Knowledge (PTK); 4 months for the subject matter; 2 weeks to take each test) in which most people are able to complete the program. Many have completed the program in a shorter amount of time. Your advisor will provide you with a more efficient, customized plan based on your needs.

ABCTE Standards	CEC Standards	Resources	Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ABCTE Domain: Professional Skills and Background Knowledge</b>  Topic 1 Philosophical, Historical, and Legal Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 1: Foundations	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Americans with Disabilities Act</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Council for Exceptional Children</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Family Educational Rights and Privacy Act (FERPA)</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Office of Special Education and Rehabilitation Services</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <b>These and other resources can be found at:</b> <a href="http://www.abcte.org/teach/exam-preparation/Special-Education">http://www.abcte.org/teach/exam-preparation/Special-Education</a>	{Time}
Topic 2 Professional and Ethical practice	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Office of Council for Exceptional Children</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Special Education and Rehabilitation Services</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*Special Education: Contemporary perspectives for school professionals</a>	{Time}
Topic 3 Professional Communication and Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 5: Learning environments and social interactions <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 10: Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*A Guide to Collaboration for IEP Teams</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*Special Education: Contemporary perspectives for school professionals</a>	{Time}

## Your Notes:

**Note:** The resources recommended outside of the ABCTE program are often freely accessible online or can be found in your library. To ease your search we have hyperlinked them.

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## Study Tip:

One effective way of using the practice quizzes is to look at the incorrect answer choices before looking at the correct explanation to see if you can understand why those options are wrong. If you can understand how a test maker uses distractors, you will be able to eliminate wrong answer choices faster on test day.

ABCTE Standards	CEC Standards	Resources	Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ABCTE Domain: Understanding the special needs student</b>  Topic 1 Characteristics of Learners with Disabilities	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 2: Development and Characteristics of Learners	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Council for Exceptional Children</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">How the Special Needs Brain Learns</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">LD Online</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities</a>	{Time}
Topic 2 Cultural Competence	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 1: Foundations <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 3: Individual Learning Differences <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 5: Learning environments and social interactions <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 9: Professional and Ethical Practice <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 10: Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*The Bueno Center for Multicultural Education</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*Exceptional Lives: Special education in today's schools</a>	{Time}
Topic 3 Family Participation	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 7: Instructional planning <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 10: Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*The Arc of the United States - Family Support</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*Special Education: Contemporary perspectives for school professionals</a>	{Time}
Topic 4 Learning environment and social interactions	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 5: Learning environments and social interactions	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">CHAMPS: A proactive and positive approach to classroom management</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Instructional Classroom Management: A proactive approach to behavior management</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*Special Education: Contemporary perspectives for school professionals</a>	{Time}

Your Notes:

*"I can give children the inspiration and encouragement to confront their own challenges, surpass negativity and persevere....Without this program, I wouldn't have had the opportunity to pursue teaching."*

-Traci Brown, ABCTE Teacher, FL

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## Testing on the Computer:

This may be your first time taking a test on a computer. On average, people read 20% slower on a screen vs. paper. Because of this and other issues, practice as much as you can on the computer to become comfortable working in that environment. Familiarity with the test and its standards will go a long way towards your ABCTE success.

ABCTE Standards	CEC Standards	Resources	Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ABCTE Domain: General Special Education Practice</b>  Topic 1 Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 8: Assessment	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Assessment: In special and inclusive education</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Classroom-Based Assessment: Evaluating instructional outcomes</a>	{Time}
Topic 2 Effective Instructional Delivery	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 4: Instructional strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Council for Exceptional Children</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Designing Instructional Strategies: The prevention of academic learning problems</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">How the Special Needs Brain Learns</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">LD Online</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">National Dissemination Center for Children with Disabilities</a>	{Time}
Topic 3 Instructional Planning	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 7: Instructional planning	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Designing Instructional Strategies: The prevention of academic learning problems</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Instructional Classroom Management: A proactive approach to behavior management</a>	{Time}
Topic 4 Student Self-Determination and Transition	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 4: Instructional strategies <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 7: Instructional planning <input type="checkbox"/> Standard 10: Collaboration	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Advanced Skills for School Success. Module 1 : School Behavior and Organization Skills</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">*Special Education: Contemporary perspectives for school professionals</a>	{Time}

Your Notes:



Did you know that ABCTE is on Facebook? Come be an ABCTE fan.

<http://www.abcte.org/facebook>

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We love to highlight ABCTE teachers with profiles in your local paper. Not only does this provide publicity for a potential job search, it can also help highlight your school as one that is committed to providing students with the best possible teacher. Visit <http://www.abcte.org/get-involved/share-your-story>.

ABCTE Standards	CEC Standards	Resources	Timeline
<input type="checkbox"/> <b>ABCTE Domain: Language Development Strategies:</b>  Topic 1 Reading Acquisition  Topic 2 Spelling  Topic 3 Language Acquisition and Development  Topic 4 Writing Strategies	<input type="checkbox"/> Standard 6: Language	<input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Bringing Words to Life: Robust vocabulary instruction</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Effective Teaching Strategies That Accommodate Diverse Learners</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Overcoming Dyslexia: A new and complete science-based program for reading problems at any level</a> <input type="checkbox"/> <a href="#">Teaching Children to Read</a>	{Time}

Your Notes:

Questions and concerns can be directed to the Help Desk at: <http://helpdesk.abcte.org/>  
Or contact your Program Advisors at: [advisor@abcte.org](mailto:advisor@abcte.org).



"The podcast for new teachers is very helpful. I have them all on my iPod and they really hit some good topics."

- Lisa Mayo, ABCTE Teacher, PA

Dr. Glen Moulton, a supervisor of instruction and life-long teacher trainer, and Michael Kelley, author of *Rookie Teaching for Dummies*, provide advice, tips, and discussions for new and veteran teachers monthly. Sign up for this great resource. It is free for anyone to download for help in the classroom:

[www.newteacherhotline.com](http://www.newteacherhotline.com).