

**Career and Technology Education (CATE) Work-Based Certification
South Carolina Trade Competency Examinations
Frequently Asked Questions**

Requirement:

R 43-63, Requirements for Career and Technology Work-Based Certification, states CATE educators must successfully validate competencies via state or nationally recognized certification, licensure, or registration on an examination(s) approved by the South Carolina Board of Education prior to the issuance of the Pre-Professional certificate. State Trade Competency Examination **must be passed by June 30 of the second year of certification.**

CATE certification areas requiring the State Trade Competency Examination:

- Culinary Arts
- Brick Masonry
- Cabinet Making
- Digital Art and Design
- Media Technology
- Diesel Mechanic
- Drafting
- Electronics
- Graphic Communications
- Industrial Maintenance
- Protective Services (Fire)
- Protective Services (Law Enforcement)
- Small Engine Repair

For CTE certification areas **not listed above**, a nationally recognized industrial certification, licensure or registration is required.

Examination Dates:

South Carolina Trade Competency Examinations are administered only twice per year; in August and February. Examinations dates can be viewed at:
(<http://www.scteachers.org/cte/tradeapps.cfm>)

Registration:

Registration is online and will open approximately 90 days and close approximately 45 days prior to each test date. To register, go to: (<http://www.scteachers.org/cte/tradeapps.cfm>)

Fee:

The exam fee is seventy-five dollars (\$75.00) and must be submitted on a separate form to complete the registration. CATE educators, who submit an online registration without a fee payment, will not be scheduled for the examination.

The exam fee will be forfeited by educators who are a "no show" for the examination.

Location:

Examination locations for each testing date are determined after all registrations and fee payments have been received by the Office of Educator Certification.

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Materials:

Approximately 30 days prior to each examination date, online registrants whose fee payment has been received by the Office of Educator Certification, will receive an admission letter containing examination times, location addresses, and phone numbers. They will also receive a handbook that will assist them in the preparation for the exam.

Note: State competency examination study guides or review materials are not available because these exams are intended to validate an applicant's industry/field competencies required for certification.

Examination:

The State Trade Competency Examination consists of a theory and practical portion with a three (3) hour time limit for each. Examinees are required to take both parts on the same day.

Sign-in normally starts around 8:30 a.m. and examinees should plan to be at the testing location until 4:00 p.m.

Contact Information:

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