

“So, You’re Going to Take the BELS Exam....”

Leslie E. Neistadt, ELS
Saint Louis University
St Louis, MO
neistadt@slu.edu

1) The application and registration processes

2) Reasons for taking the exam

3) Topics covered in the exam

- grammar
- punctuation
- mechanics
- usage and diction
- syntax
- internal consistency
- numbers
- bibliographic references
- tables and illustrations
- units of scientific measure and scientific terms
- publishing requirements
- traditional principles and ethics of scientific inquiry, writing and publishing

4) Suggested references

- the usual suspects
- a few additions

5) The very best way to prepare for the exam

- _____

(Sorry, you’ll just have to attend to find out!)