

Rhode Island College  
Early Childhood Education Undergraduate Program

Section IV Evidence for Meeting Standards  
Assessment 1 – Praxis II: EC Content Knowledge (0022)

**1. A brief description of the assessment:**

Once accepted into the Early Childhood Undergraduate Program teacher candidates must pass the Praxis II: Early Childhood Content Knowledge Test (0022) or the Elementary Content Knowledge Test (0014) during phase I while taking ECED 301: Developmental Approaches to Teaching.

The Early Childhood Content Knowledge Exam (0022) is designed to assess the content knowledge prospective early childhood teachers must have in order to support children's learning in the content areas. The test consists of 120 multiple-choice questions, each of which pertains to one of six content areas: language and literacy, mathematics, social studies, science, health and physical education, and creative and performing arts. Questions will assess whether the test taker knows the major concepts, skills, and tools of inquiry in the content areas, can apply knowledge of the content areas in the context of children's learning; knows the structure of the content areas; and knows how the content areas are interrelated. The test does not emphasize knowledge of pedagogy; though some questions are framed in the context of children's learning (<http://www.ets.org/Media/Tests/PRAXIS/taag/0022/glance.htm>).

**2. A description of how this assessment specifically aligns with the standards**

The Praxis II: EC Content Knowledge Exam (0022) specifically aligns with NAEYC Standard 4c as the questions address content areas of: Language and Literacy, Mathematics, Social Studies, Science, Health and Physical Education, and Creative/Performing Arts. The exam evaluates a teacher candidate's basic skills and content knowledge which ensures that they know the essential concepts, inquiry tools, and structure of the content areas so that as they prepare to take the next level of courses in the program where they are expected to utilize their content knowledge to plan effective and appropriate curriculum for young children. By passing the exam teacher candidates are providing evidence that they know what is important in each content area and also why it is important. Sample test questions are provided to document alignment with Standard 4c.

Language and Literacy: *A teacher provides support for small, flexible groups of beginning readers. As students read a text or book that is unfamiliar to them, the teacher works with them to teach them how to use a variety of reading strategies. Which of the following reading approaches is described? A) Direct instruction, B) Literature circles, C) Guided reading, D) Read-aloud*

Mathematics: *A teacher taps each child in line, calling out "first, second, third, fourth..." Which of the following types of numbers is the teacher using? A) Nominal, B) Cardinal, C) Ordinal, D) Real*

### **3. A brief analysis of the data findings:**

In order to maintain accepted status into the Early Childhood Program teacher candidates must pass the Praxis II: EC Content Knowledge (0022) or the Elementary Content Knowledge Test (0014) with a passing score of 169. In the Spring of 2009 of the 15 reported candidates, nine candidates took 0022 and two candidates took 0014, with four candidates not having scores reported. Of the reported scores for 0022 one candidate did not pass the cutoff, with the remaining candidates' scores ranging from 169-179. Of the reported scores for 0014 one candidate did not pass the cutoff and the other candidate passed with a score of 176. In the Fall of 2009 of the 22 reported candidates, six candidates took 0022 and one candidate took 0014, with 15 candidates not having scores reported. Of the six candidates that took 0022, two candidates did not pass the cutoff, with the remaining 4 candidates' scores ranging from 172 to 181. The one candidate who took 0014 did not pass the cutoff. In the Spring of 2010 of the 6 reported candidates 4 do not have scores. One candidate took 0022 with a passing score of 176, and one candidate took 0014 and did not pass with a score of 163.

### **4. An interpretation of how that data provides evidence for meeting standards:**

Teacher candidates who do not pass the Praxis II: EC Content Knowledge (0022) exam or the Elementary Content Knowledge Test (0014) exam are not allowed to continue to take courses in the program until they pass the exam. This ensures that all candidates who student teach and complete the Early Childhood Program meet the requirements of the State of Rhode Island for teacher licensure and possess the necessary knowledge to be well-versed in the "basics" of various content areas in order to be an effective teacher. Of the teacher candidates that took the exam the overall pass rate for the semesters of Spring 2009, Fall 2009, and Spring 2010 was 75%. This data provides evidence that one quarter of the early childhood teacher candidates do not possess the necessary early childhood content knowledge to support young children's learning. The 75% of the early childhood teacher candidates who passed the exam demonstrated that they are well versed in the essentials of the various content areas including: language and literacy, mathematics, social studies, science, health & physical education, and creative/performing arts as stated in Standard 4c. The sample exam questions demonstrate that teacher candidates need to know and understand the importance, central concepts, inquiry tools, and structures of content areas or academic disciplines.

### **5. Attachment of assessment documentation:**

\*Note the exams can be viewed by visiting ETS.org