

Rhode Island College
Elementary Education Undergraduate Program Review

Section IV Evidence for Meeting Standards

Assessment 1: Licensure assessment, or other content-based assessment

Program Requirements

1. Praxis 1: Pre-Professional Skills Test – Basic Skills (or SAT® Reading and Mathematics)
 2. **Praxis II: Elementary Education Content Knowledge**
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Program Requirement 2 – Praxis II: Elementary Education Content Knowledge (Required for program continuation)

Brief Description of the Assessment

The Praxis II Elementary Education Content Knowledge Exam (0014) is designed to assess the content knowledge of prospective elementary education teachers. It is one of the two licensure exams (the other is aligned with pedagogy) required by the Rhode Island State Department of Education for elementary teacher certification. The 120 multiple-choice questions assess content knowledge in language arts/reading, mathematics, social studies and science; questions are distributed equally, 30 in each content area.

Alignment with ACEI Standards

In each content area of the exam, questions are based on the following topics:

Language arts/reading – Foundations of Reading, Language in Writing and Communication Skills (ACEI 2.1).

Science – Earth Science, Life Science, Physical Science, Science in Personal and Social Perspectives and Science as Inquiry and Science Processes (ACEI 2.2)

Mathematics – Mathematical Processes, Number Sense and Numeration, Algebraic Concepts, Informal Geometry and Measurement and Data Organization and Interpretation (ACEI 2.3).

Social Studies – Geography, Anthropology, Sociology, World History, United States History, Government, Citizenship, and Democracy, Economics and Social Studies as Inquiry and Social Studies processes (ACEI 2.4).

Analysis of the Data Findings

The level of content knowledge assessed in the Praxis II Content Knowledge test is essential to becoming a successful and effective classroom teacher. There is no substitute for this requirement. Teacher candidates must demonstrate their knowledge of content through this licensure exam if they are to continue beyond Elementary Education Program's initial course, ELED 300: Concepts of Teaching.

ETS provides data collected from over 97,000 examinees and cites a mean average score of 164 on the content knowledge test with an average score range of 151-176. In each of the three semesters of data collection, the Rhode Island College Teacher Candidates scored below the ETS mean average but did score at or above the 145 required score. After examining median and range data it was found that 34% of the Spring 2010 teacher candidates scored at or above the ETS mean score of 164, 28% of the Fall 2009 teacher candidates scored at or above the 164 score and 31% of the Spring 2009 scored at or above the 164 score.

Interpretation of How the Data Provides Evidence for Meeting Standards

The mean scores represent the level of content knowledge teacher candidates' possess in the areas of reading (ACEI 2.1), science (ACEI 2.2), mathematics (ACEI 2.3) and social studies (ACEI 2.4). With this assessment point in place, teacher candidates who meet this requirement begin content area methods courses. Meeting this content knowledge test requirement provides faculty with some assurance that teacher candidates will have the basic content knowledge needed to teach in each of the four content areas of reading, science, mathematics and social studies.

Assessment Documentation

Program Requirement 2 – Praxis II: Elementary Education Content Knowledge

Passing score of 145 is required for continuation beyond the initial Elementary Education course.

| Content Knowledge | | mean | range | median |
|-------------------|----------|------|---------|--------|
| Spring 2010 | n = 83* | 158 | 145-191 | 158 |
| Fall 2009 | n = 54 | 158 | 145-184 | 153 |
| Spring 2009 | n = 95** | 159 | 145-188 | 158 |

* Scores unavailable for one candidate

** Scores unavailable for one candidate

Praxis II Assessment information available at: <http://www.ets.org/praxis/about/praxisii/>