Rhode Island College Master of Arts in Teaching Program, Elementary Education
Program Review
Assessment 1

Assessment 1: Licensure Exam Elementary Education Content Knowledge Praxis II 0014

1. Brief Description of Assessment

The Praxis II Elementary Education Content Knowledge Exam (0014) is a licensure exam that is used both in Rhode Island and nationally. The test consists of 120 multiple-choice questions that assess content knowledge in four areas: language arts, mathematics, social studies and science. There are 30 questions in each area.

In Reading (ACEI 2.1), foundations of reading; language in writing; and communication skills are assessed. In Mathematics (ACEI 2.3), knowledge of mathematical processes; number sense and numeration; algebraic concepts, informal geometry and measurement; and data organization and interpretation are measured. In Social Studies (ACEI 2.4), geography, anthropology, and sociology; world history; U.S. history; government, citizenship, and democracy; economics; Social Studies as inquiry and Social Studies processes are assessed. In Science (ACEI 2.2), knowledge of earth science; life science; physical science; Science in personal and social perspectives; and Science as inquiry and Science processes are measured.

2. Brief Description of How Assessment is Used

Master of Arts in Teaching in Elementary Education teacher candidates must take and pass the Praxis II Elementary Education Content Knowledge Exam (0014) as part of their application criteria for admission to the program. Passing the exam means attaining the score set by the Rhode Island Department of Education for eligibility for certification in the state. The passing score for this exam is 145.

3) Brief Analysis of Findings

Content knowledge is essential to becoming a successful and effective classroom teacher, and there is no substitute for this requirement. Teacher candidates demonstrate content knowledge through this licensure exam as one measure before they are admitted to this program. The test results reveal that our teacher candidates, in addition to meeting the other admission criteria, perform well above the passing score set by the state, and are competent in this area. As presented in the table below, the mean total score is 169. The total score has been disaggregated according to discipline as well. While our applicants earn the strongest scores in Language Arts and Mathematics, they perform within the average range in Social Studies and Science.

4) Evidence of Meeting Standards

The pass rates indicate applicants who are admitted have a strong foundation of content knowledge needed for teaching in an elementary level classroom and are competent in this aspect of ACEI Standards 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, and 2.4. To further ensure candidate knowledge competence, in addition to the licensure exam, applicants' undergraduate transcripts are carefully reviewed for GPA (minimum 3.0) and specific content coursework. Teacher candidates listed in the data table have a mean GPA of 3.5 on their undergraduate transcripts. Also, approximately 90% of teacher

candidates are asked to take additional coursework in one or more of the following areas: science, mathematics, U.S. history, health or physical education, and the arts.

In summary, we are highly satisfied with the content knowledge our teacher candidates demonstrate, and believe this licensure exam, coupled with our other criteria, enables us to admit highly qualified applicants to the program.

5) Assessment Documentation

PRAXIS II: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION CONTENT KNOWLEDGE EXAM (0014)* Elementary Education Master of Arts in Teaching Program Applicants Admitted Mean Scores					
	Total Score**	Language Arts	Mathematics	Social Studies	Science
Fall 2009 n-12	164	23.4	21	18.25	19.25
Spring 2010 n=5	173.4	23	24.4	20.6	22.2
Fall 2010 n=18	169.7	23.7	21.25	20.5	22.6
Total Mean	164	23.3	22.2	19.8	21.35

*Passing score set by RIDE=145
**Out of a possible 200
***Out of a possible 30