

**Assessment 2: Licensure Exam Elementary Education Content Area Exercises Exam**  
**Praxis II 0012**

**1. Brief Description of Assessment**

The Praxis II Elementary Education Content Area Exercises Exam (0012) is a licensure exam that is used both in Rhode Island and nationally to measure competence in applying pedagogical knowledge. The test consists of four essay questions that require an extended written response in the following areas: Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science or Social Studies, and one interdisciplinary prompt requiring integration of disciplines. The essay prompts involve specific teaching situations that commonly arise in classrooms every day and teacher candidates have approximately one half hour per prompt to craft a response that contains solutions to a problem or setting of goals.

**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 Area Exercises Exam (0012) as part of their application criteria for permission to student teach. 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 148.

**3) Brief Analysis of Findings**

The test results reveal that our teacher candidates, in addition to meeting the other criteria used to determine readiness for student teaching, perform 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 157.64. The total score has been disaggregated according to discipline/prompt as well. While our applicants earn the strongest scores in responding to the Integrated Content Area and Mathematics, they perform within the average range in Social Studies and Science.

In addition to the licensure exam, teacher candidates provide further evidence of their readiness to student teach in artifacts that have been constructed and evaluated during methods courses. These will be described in additional assessments attached to this report.

In summary, while we are satisfied that our teacher candidates demonstrate ability to apply knowledge learned during their coursework and practicum experiences, we are working towards improving the scores in the individual disciplines as we believe our teacher candidates are capable of performing even better.

**4) Evidence of Meeting Standards**

As a result of passing this exam, teacher candidates demonstrate competence in a number of ACEI Standards, including: 1.0; 2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4; 3.1, 3.2, and 3.3. They must “use the major concepts, principles, theories, and research related to development of children and young

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adolescents to construct learning opportunities” (1.0), and know, understand, and use relevant concepts from Reading/Language Arts, Mathematics, Science, and Social Studies (2.1, 2.2, 2.3, 2.4) as they respond to these highly focused essay prompts. Successful responses demonstrate that teacher candidates can integrate and apply knowledge for instruction (3.1), differentiate instruction based on individual students (3.2), and present instruction that promotes critical thinking in their students (3.3).

Knowledge of child development, learning, and motivation, knowledge of curriculum, and instruction and applying this knowledge in the classroom are essential to becoming an effective classroom teacher. This licensure exam provides one measure of competence in these areas and can be used to determine that teacher candidates are ready for the extended and more intense experiences that arise during student teaching.

**5) Assessment Documentation**

<b>PRAXIS II: ELEMENTARY EDUCATION CONTENT AREA EXERCISES EXAM (0012)*</b>					
<b>Elementary Education Master of Arts in Teaching Candidates</b>					
<b>Mean Scores</b>					
	<b>Total Score**</b>	<b>Reading/Language Arts***</b>	<b>Mathematics***</b>	<b>Social Studies/Science***</b>	<b>Integrated Content Area***</b>
<b>Fall 2009 n=4</b>	<b>157.5</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8.25</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8.75</b>
<b>Spring 2010 n=2</b>	<b>154.5</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8</b>	<b>8.5</b>	<b>8</b>
<b>Fall 2010 n=8</b>	<b>158.5</b>	<b>7.86</b>	<b>8.57</b>	<b>8.29</b>	<b>9.14</b>
<b>Total Mean n=14</b>	<b>157.64</b>	<b>8.07</b>	<b>8.46</b>	<b>8.15</b>	<b>8.85</b>

\*Passing score set by RIDE=148

\*\*Out of a possible 200

\*\*\*Out of a possible 12