**Initial Programs**

**PRAXIS II for all NC Teacher Candidates**

The key reasons for many legislative changes in NC testing is the need for assurance of Teacher Candidate **Depth of Content Knowledge**.

From July 1, 2014 onwards all teacher candidates seeking initial licensure will have to take PRAXIS II in their content area. To date only elementary education and special education candidates had to take PRAXIS II.

The following are the required PRAXIS II tests appropriate for each discipline area beginning July 2014 or December 2014 (middle and high school) - see attached for phase out schedule:

**Elementary Education:** Foundations of Reading and General Curriculum

**Special Education:** Foundations of Reading and General Curriculum; Core Knowledge and Mild to Moderate Applications; Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (Calculator allowed.)

**Middle Grades:** Middle School English Language Arts, Middle School Mathematics (On-screen calculator provided.), Middle School Science, Middle School Social Studies

**Secondary Grades 7-12:** Content knowledge in each discipline and Principles of Learning and Teaching Grades

**All Grades:** Health and Physical education: Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge, Music Education - Music: Content and Instruction, Spanish - Spanish: World Language

**SO WHAT SHOULD WE DO TO PREPARE?**

Check the content of your content courses. You may have to add content, redesign, or conduct a program alignment of content with content courses

**Advanced Programs**

**Portfolio Results:** Inter-rater Reliability

A question was raised by faculty about the level of inter-rater reliability within and across internal and external reviewers of M.Ed. Candidate portfolios.

Kappa values were calculated for 2012 and 2013 portfolio ratings. The table below explains the meaning associate with Kappa Values.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Value of K</th>
<th>Strength of agreement</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>&lt; 0.20</td>
<td>Poor</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.21 - 0.40</td>
<td>Fair</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.41 - 0.60</td>
<td>Moderate</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.61 - 0.80</td>
<td>Good</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>0.81 - 1.00</td>
<td>Very good</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**2012 Results:**

The ratings for 2012 were mostly above 0.70, so there is adequate to fair agreement for all but one section of the portfolio. The "KL" section had the least agreement among raters (Kappa = 0.389), so would have warranted retraining of raters on what constituted a "pass" and "fail" of KL, Knowledge of Learners.

The assessments used in 2012, as a result of the modifications to North Carolina Teaching Standards by North Carolina Department of Public Instruction, are no longer used in the program. In 2012, most rewrites by candidates were in KL.

**2013 Results:**

The ratings for 2013 were all above 0.70 (barely, but above nonetheless), so there is adequate agreement among raters for each portfolio section. Reaffirming bulletins may help maintain the adequate ratings for the future. Retraining is not necessary.

**Unit Assessment Bulletin**

October & November, 2013

**The Unit**

**NEW FACULTY SEARCH**

Several faculty in the School of Education are working on research (Mary & Cherrel), working through a grant (Terry), serving as fellows (Jean, Resa), etc. and so there is a need to hire new fulltime faculty. There are currently two ongoing searches_ Literacy and Math, respectively.

**MOONEY FACILITY : NEW DESKS & CHAIRS**

As part of the Mooney Building makeover, we are purchasing new desks and chairs for the classrooms in the building. Faculty, staff, and students have been asked to rate the samples in the dean’s office. The general consensus is that the proposed new desks/chairs are a welcome change. Some of the comments from students include...

*I like it! I think we should have a mixture of colors. I think they are great for group work. We like the blue! _ AS & DC*

*The desks are awesome! They are much more conducive for comfort and as a student with back problems, these feel much better than the current ones! Also, the colors in the pillows are all lovely. _ED*

*I feel like it would be hard to have a notebook and a laptop and anything else at the same time. I love the colors and the patterns as well. _ DM*

*The idea of the desk is really great. Since there are so many times we do group work, not having to move desks around beforehand would be really nice. The desktop is rather small though. I feel like it would be hard to have a notebook and a laptop and anything else at the same time. I love the colors and the patterns as well. _ ED*

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Any Fall Student Teachers or Graduates?

DPI is still in the process of determining the cut-off score for the PRAXIS II replacement. They are asking for at least 1 or 2 special education or elementary education students, a mix of gender to take the new test in its trial stage in the fall to pilot. DPI will reimburse half the cost $310 ($155 per candidate). The first exam will take place April / May 2014. The cut score will be determined early August and September.

What’s on the Foundations of Reading test?

The Foundations of Reading test for North Carolina includes:

- **100 multiple-choice items**, each of which assesses knowledge or skills related to one of three major areas of reading instruction named in the test's subareas (Foundations of Reading Development, Development of Reading Comprehension, and Reading Assessment and Instruction).
- **2 open-response (i.e., essay) items** that require examinees to apply their knowledge and understanding of content related to two or more of these areas.

What’s on the General Curriculum test?

The General Curriculum test for North Carolina consists of two separately administered and scored subtests:

- **The multi-subject subtest** includes 55 multiple-choice items, each of which assesses knowledge or skills related to one of three major areas (language arts, history and social science, and science and technology/engineering), and one open-response (i.e., essay) item that requires examinees to apply their knowledge and understanding of content related to two or more of these areas.

The mathematics subtest includes 45 multiple-choice items, each of which assesses knowledge or skills related to one of four major areas of mathematics named in the test’s subareas (Numbers and Operations, Functions and Algebra, Geometry and Measurement, and Statistics and Probability), and one open-response (i.e., essay) item that requires examinees to apply their knowledge and understanding of content related to two or more of these areas.

NOTE: Student Bulletin to begin by November ending. Please help distribute.