

Section IV
Assessment 1 – Narrative
Content Knowledge (PRAXIS II)

1. Description of assessment and its use in the program

PRAXIS II (0081-Social Studies Content Knowledge) is the standardized examination that measures content knowledge within the Social Studies. The Secondary Social Studies teacher preparation program uses the results of the PRAXIS II to determine areas of strength and weakness within the content coursework and makes changes necessary to better prepare teacher candidates.

While successfully passing the PRAXIS II is a requirement for New Hampshire licensure (as well as many other states where our teacher candidates will teach), it is not a requirement for successful completion of our secondary Social Studies program.

2. Description of how this assessment specifically aligns with the standards

PRAXIS II (0081-Social Studies Content Knowledge) closely aligns with the content standards as expressed in the NCSS Ten Themes. The sub-sections of PRAXIS II include US History, World History, Government/Civics/Political Science, Geography, Economics, and the Behavioral Sciences. These are aligned with the NCSS Ten Themes as follows:

STANDARDS	PRAXIS II SUB-SECTIONS
1.1 Culture and Cultural Diversity	Behavioral Sciences
1.2 Time, Continuity, and Change	US History, World History
1.3 People, Places, and Environment	Geography
1.4 Individual Development and Identity	Behavioral Sciences
1.5 Individuals, Groups, and Institutions	Behavioral Sciences
1.6 Power, Authority, and Governance	Government/Civics/Political Science
1.7 Production, Distribution, and Consumption	Economics
1.10 Civic Ideals and Practices	Government/Civics/Political Science

While the two remaining themes, 1.8 (Science, Technology, and Technology) and 1.9 (Global Connections) are not directly addressed in the PRAXIS II, they are embedded in several of the sub-sections. In order to assure that teacher candidates possess mastery of these two themes, the content of prescribed coursework in the KSC program specifically addresses those standards.

3. Analysis of data findings

(See Attachment A for data)

The data for the PRAXIS II-Social Studies Content Knowledge has consistently shown over the past several years that KSC teacher candidates demonstrate the breadth of knowledge necessary for a broad field Social Studies certification. In the data shown for 2004-2005, the number of completers who took the PRAXIS II does not accurately reflect the total number of program completers because KSC draws its students from several states that do not require the PRAXIS II for licensure.

Relevant to the content area sub-scores, the core content courses taken by Secondary Social Studies teacher candidates offers the breadth of the Social Studies content. By choosing

one of the four pathways to eligibility for recommendation for NH state licensure, the teacher candidate adds depth to their content knowledge. The data reflects the breadth of the core content with little variation in the scores for US History, World History, Government/Civics/Political Science, and Economics (60-62%). Geography subscores are the highest (72%), followed by the Behavioral Sciences (68% for 1.1., 1.4, and 1.5).

Interestingly, the sub-scores indicate that the most common major among the Social Studies teacher candidates, Social Science, fosters the breadth of Social Studies content knowledge. The second most common major is History and that does not seem to be reflected in the subject areas of World and US History (Theme 1.2). The third major that constitutes a very small number of majors of teacher candidates at the secondary level is Geography, and yet that percentage score is the highest among the subject areas (72%). However, many Social Science and History majors opt for electives beyond the required geography course. During 2004-2005, there were no Sociology majors completing the Secondary Social Studies option.

When comparing average percent correct in each of the subscores between the Keene State College Scores and the scores statewide across NH, it is found that KSC exceeds the state average for Geography, Economics, and the Behavioral Sciences, but falls below the state average in US and World History and Government/Civics/Political Science.

4. Interpretation of how data provides evidence for meeting standards

(See Attachment A)

The passing scores for the 10 out of 12 examinees provide evidence that supports the present teacher preparation program for Secondary Social Studies. However, some of the sub-scores indicate that modifications to course content need to be addressed. For example, coursework in the Sociology major does not directly address the subject areas most taught by secondary Social Studies teachers (i.e., history, economics, and government) and this is a concern. Another example is that unless Political Science and Economics are either a primary or secondary specialization within the Social Science major, only one course in each subject is required for the secondary Social Studies option. It may be inferred from the data that perhaps this fact is responsible for the lower scores in these two areas (Themes 1.6, 1.7, and 1.10).

The somewhat higher scores found in Geography and the Behavioral Sciences may be due to the fact that these particular departments are especially cognizant of and responsive to teacher preparation programs.

Since Themes 1.8 and 1.9 are not directly addressed in the PRAXIS II, it is incumbent for the program to see that the content found in these themes is met in required coursework. This is already true for Social Science majors and Geography majors, but necessarily true for History or Sociology majors.

While scores indicate evidence of meeting the standards, they do not yet yield exemplary content knowledge. This interpretation of the data will result in a thorough review of required coursework among all the majors involved in the Secondary Social Studies option.

5. Attachments of assessment documentation

A. Candidate data derived from assessment

**Section IV
Assessment 1 - Attachment A
PRAXIS II DATA**

**KSC PRAXIS II Social Studies Content Knowledge Scores
1999-2004**

YEAR	# OF COMPLETERS TAKING TEST	PASSING COMPLETERS	PASS RATE
1999-2000	10	9	90%
2000-2001	N/A	N/A	100%
2001-2002	10	10	100%
2002-2003	14	12	85.71%
2003-2004	18	16	88.89%
2004-2005	12	10	83.33%

Data obtained from ETS from the period of 9/1/04 through 8/31/05 for Keene State College

Total Content Knowledge Report -2004-2005

N=12

Percent passing: 83.33%
Highest Observed Score: 195
Lowest Observed Score: 146
Median: 162
Mean: 164.67

Scores:
195 (1) **147 (1)***
183 (1) **146 (1)***
173 (1)
171 (1)
168 (1)
162 (2)
158 (1)
156 (1)
155 (1)

***not passing**

Sub-score Report
N=12

Applicable Standard	1.1	1.2	1.3	1.4	1.5	1.6	1.7	1.8	1.9	1.10
PRAXIS II Sub-scores	Behav. Sciences	Hist. US World	Geography	Behav. Sciences	Behav. Sciences	Gov't/Civics/ Pol. Sci	Economics	N/A	N/A	Gov't/Civics/ Pol. Sci
Average % correct (KSC)	68	61 60	72	68	68	62	60	N/A	N/A	62
Average % correct (NH)	64	67 63	69	64	64	66	59	N/A	N/A	66