

## **ASSESSMENT 1: [Licensure Assessment, or other content-based assessment] PRAXIS II**

### **1. A brief description of the assessment and its use in the program.**

The PRAXIS II Elementary Education Content Knowledge exam is a required exam for licensure for New Hampshire Elementary Education as of July 1, 2006. The test focuses on fundamental concepts in four content areas: Language Arts and Reading (ACEI Standard 2.1), Mathematics (ACEI Standard 2.3), Social Studies (ACEI Standard 2.4) and Science (ACEI Standard 2.2). The state's qualifying score for licensure is 148. The PRAXIS II Elementary Content Knowledge exam became an **employment** requirement for newly certified New Hampshire teachers as of July 1, 2005. The PRAXIS II Elementary Content Knowledge exam became a **certification requirement** for candidates seeking New Hampshire Elementary Education certification as of July 1, 2006. The Keene State College Teacher Education program now requires that program completers pass the exam (with a minimum score of 148) to be recommended for certification.

### **2. A description of how this assessment specifically aligns with the standards it is cited for in Section III.**

The PRAXIS II Elementary Education Content Knowledge exam measures general and subject specific knowledge and teaching skills. It was developed to align with four ACEI Standards: ACEI Language Arts and Reading Standard 2.1; ACEI Math Standard 2.3; ACEI Social Studies Standard 2.4; and ACEI Science Standard 2.2. However, the PRAXIS II test is not the only measure of our candidates' content knowledge. KSC Education faculty use Assessment #2 to complement the PRAXIS II as a means of determining content knowledge. This combination of assessments provides an opportunity for candidates to demonstrate their mastery of subject specific content knowledge as well as their ability to use their knowledge in their teaching.

### **3. A brief analysis of the data findings.**

The PRAXIS II data available on our program completers is premature and very limited at this time. We do not yet have data for our spring 2006 program completers, who are the first cohort required to take the PRAXIS II Elementary Content Knowledge exam as a licensure requirement.

We do have test score data on 33 individuals who completed our Elementary Education program at KSC between 9/05 and 5/06, approximately 25% of the average number of program completers per year over the past three years. Of the 33 program completers noted above, 94% scored at or above the state qualifying score of 148. PRAXIS II did not become a requirement for state certification until July 2006 and PRAXIS II has not been a requirement of our program, thus the reporting of test scores to our institution is done voluntarily. We suspect this is the reason for such a low number of program completers reporting their scores to our institution. Category score data from ETS will be available until later in the fall '06 semester.

### **4. An interpretation of how the data provides evidence for meeting standards**

Interpretation of the limited PRAXIS score data is premature at this time. The institution is currently working to develop a systematic way of collecting PRAXIS score data

beginning the fall '06 semester and there is discussion about candidates passing the PRAXIS II test as a requirement for student teaching.

**5. Assessment Documentation**

No additional documentation is available beyond what is reported.