

**Unit Assessment Report: Assessment #1: Assessment of Content**

**Instrument: Illinois Certification Testing System Content Exams**

**School Year: 2011-2012**

**Description and Use of the Assessment:** The State of Illinois develops and administers this assessment of content to all licensure candidates. Tests are divided into various subareas depending on the content. Cut scores are set by the State and currently a score of 240 is required for passing on all tests. The test is a multiple choice format of 60 to 100 questions. Candidates’ results are sent directly to them and also to the Unit. A passing score is required to engage in clinical practice through student teaching, internship or practicum for all programs. Candidates are allotted five attempts to pass the State Content Tests. The subareas for each content exam are listed in the charts below:

**Content Test Subareas**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Elementary Education** | **Special Education** | **Secondary: Biology** |
| Language Arts and Literacy | Foundations and Characteristics | Science and Technology |
| Mathematics | Assessment of Students and development of programs | Life Science |
| Science | Planning & Delivery of Instruction | Physical Science |
| Social Sciences | Manage the Learning Environment | Earth Systems and the Universe |
| The Arts, Health & Physical Education | Work in a Learning Community | Cell Biology |
|  | Professional Conduct | Organismal Biology & Ecology |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Secondary: Chemistry** | **Secondary: English/Language Arts** | **Secondary: History** |
| Science and Technology | Reading | Social Science Foundation |
| Life Science | Writing and Research | History Common Core |
| Physical Science | Speaking and Listening | Historical Concepts and World History |
| Earth Systems and the Universe | Literature | U.S. and Illinois History |
| Matter, Structure and Practical Knowledge |  |  |
| Stoichiometry |  |  |

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Secondary: Mathematics** | **Secondary: Physics** | **School Counseling** |
| Processes and Applications | Science and Technology | Student Development across Domains |
| Number Sense & Measurement | Life Science | Assessment, Instruction & Services |
| Algebraic Pattern | Physical Science | The School Environment |
| Geometric Methods | Earth Systems and the Universe | The School Counseling Profession |
| Probability & Statistics | Physics Skills, Motion, Forces & Waves |  |
|  | Heat, Electricity, Magnetism & Modern Physics |  |

|  |  |
| --- | --- |
| **Reading & Literacy** | **Educational Leadership** |
| Language, Reading & Literature | Understanding the Learning Environment |
| Reading Instruction & Assessment | Communication, Collaboration & School Culture |
| Reading, Research and Curriculum Design | Human Development, Curriculum Planning & Assessment |
| Professional Responsibilities & Resource Management | Resource Management and School Governance |

**Data:**

|  |  |  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- | --- | --- |
| **State Content Test**  **by Program and**  **Degree** | **Undergraduate** | | **Graduate** | | **State Average** |
| **Pass Rate** | **Average Score** | **Pass Rate** | **Average Score** | **Average Score** |
| **Elementary**  **Education** | 85% | 252 | 96% | 259 | 258 |
| **Special**  **Education** | 88% | 262 | 97% | 267 | 265 |
| **Secondary:**  **Biology** |  |  | 100% | 278 | 258 |
| **Secondary:**  **Chemistry** |  |  |  |  | 250 |
| **Secondary: English/Language**  **Arts** | 100% | 269 |  |  | 265 |
| **Secondary:**  **History** | 100% | 257 | 100% | 262 | 258 |
| **Secondary:**  **Math** | 100% | 245 |  |  | 254 |
| **Secondary:**  **Physics** | 100% | 245 | 100% | 283 | 254 |
| **School**  **Counseling** |  |  | 95% | 263 | 263 |
| **Reading &**  **Literacy** |  |  | 100% | 262 | 268 |
| **Educational**  **Leadership** |  |  | 95% | 267 | 264 |
| **Totals** | **96%** | **255** | **98%** | **268** | **260** |

**Interpretation and Findings:** A review of the data shows a high pass rate for all state content exams and the graduate and undergraduate levels for the College of Education at Lewis University. Programs that prepare candidates for their initial teaching license include Elementary Education, Special Education, and Secondary Education. All programs performed well above the 80% threshold.

As would be expected, a comparison of undergraduate and graduate candidates indicates a slightly stronger performance by graduate candidates. Graduate programs have a 98% pass rate across both initial and advanced licensure programs with an average score of 268. The pass rate for undergraduate programs is 96% which is still well above the 80% as scrutinized by the state, SPAs, and NCATE. The average cut score for undergraduates is 255 and 268 for graduates which reveal a performance well above the required 240 for passing.

Advanced licensure programs include Reading and Literacy, Educational Leadership and School Counseling. These programs average a pass rate of 97% and a cut score of 264 which is equivalent to the state average.

Program and department faculty review the results of state content exams on a semester basis and analyze results for program changes annually.

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