

**Unit Assessment Report: Assessment 10: APT results**

**Instrument: School Year: 2011-2012**

**Description and Use of the Assessment:** The Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) is a standardized assessment required for initial licensure from the State of Illinois and assesses candidates on professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills. The APT consists of 120 multiple-choice questions and 2 constructed-response assignments. There are four levels of the APT: Birth to Grade 3, Grades K–9, Grades 6–12, and Grades K–12. Candidates must earn a score of 240 to pass the APT. Candidates may take the APT 5 times.

The APT is designed to assess a candidate's pedagogical knowledge. The tests are based on current and relevant expectations for teacher preparation students and for teachers in Illinois. Candidates must earn a score of 240 in order to pass the APT.

The content covered by the APT tests is organized into six subareas:

Foundations, Characteristics, and Assessment

Planning and Delivering Instruction

Managing the Learning Environment

Collaboration, Communication, and Professionalism

Language Arts

Educational Technology

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| **Initial Programs** | **Mean Score** |
| Elementary Education - Undergraduate | 258 |
| Elementary Education – Graduate Evening Masters | 268 |
| Early Childhood special Education- Undergraduate | NA |
| Early Childhood Special Education- Graduate | NA |
| Special Education Undergraduate | 262 |
| Special Education Graduate | 264 |
| Secondary Education – Mathematics undergraduate | 264 |
| Secondary Education – Mathematics graduate | 237 |
| Secondary Education – Science undergraduate | 275 |
| Secondary Education – Science graduate | 284 |
| Secondary Education – Social Science History undergraduate | 258 |
| Secondary Education – Social Science History Graduate | 235 |
| Secondary Education – Social Science Psychology undergraduate | 274 |
| Secondary Education - Social Science Psychology graduate | NA |
| Secondary Education – English Language Arts undergraduate | 257 |
| Secondary Education - English Language Arts Graduate | 275 |
| Secondary Education Average of all candidates | 262 |
| **Initial Candidates Average** | **262** |

**Discussion:**

Examination of the performance of College of Education initial licensure candidates reveals a mean score well above the required 240 cut score needed for passing. Generally, candidates in the College of Education at Lewis University and across the state perform quite well with very few candidates needing to repeat the test. Among the highest scoring programs (> 275) for 2011-2012 are Secondary English Language Arts graduate candidates and Secondary Science undergraduate and graduate candidates although most all program performed well. Only two programs have mean scores below the requisite cut score: Secondary Social Science graduate candidates and Secondary Mathematics graduate candidates. A review of program assessment data shows that the math program had a very small number of candidates and that one candidate’s low score significantly impacted the mean. A review of the performance of Secondary History candidates indicated 2 of the 8 candidates tested have significant difficulty with test taking and required additional assistance from faculty to prepare for the APT.

Overall, initial candidates in the College of Education perform well on the APT. Program faculty should continue to monitor performance of mathematics and social science secondary candidates and to investigate more deeply any curricular issues in the area of curriculum and pedagogy that could be impacting the performance of these candidates on this assessment.

Submitted:

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