

**Unit Assessment Report: Assessment 10: Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT)**

**Instrument: School Year: 2012-2013**

**Description and Use of the Assessment:** The Assessment of Professional Teaching (APT) is a standardized assessment required for 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.

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 | 268 |
| Elementary Education – Graduate Evening Masters | 274 |
| Early Childhood special Education- Undergraduate | - |
| Early Childhood Special Education- Graduate | - |
| Special Education Undergraduate | 263 |
| Special Education Graduate | 269 |
| Secondary Education – Mathematics undergraduate | 266 |
| Secondary Education – Mathematics graduate | 255 |
| Secondary Education – Science undergraduate | 280 |
| Secondary Education – Science graduate | - |
| Secondary Education – Social Science History undergraduate | 253 |
| Secondary Education – Social Science History Graduate | 264 |
| Secondary Education – Social Science Psychology undergraduate | - |
| Secondary Education - Social Science Psychology graduate | - |
| Secondary Education – English Language Arts undergraduate | 276 |
| Secondary Education - English Language Arts Graduate | 280 |
| Secondary Education Average of all candidates | 268 |
| **Initial Candidates Average** | **268** |

**Discussion:** Results from the APT for the 2012-2013 school year indicate a high degree of proficiency across all initial programs for this licensure exam. Lewis boasts a 99% passage rate on the APT for first time test takers. This could be in part due to a tight alignment of the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards with the curriculum taught in the College of Education. A weak area from past APT exams has been the constructed response portion of the exam. In order to better prepare candidates many department simulated the constructed response in certain courses to give candidates practice in this type of writing under pressure.

Another factor that is believed to impact these positive results is the fact that most initial candidates take this exam close to the end of their program with many taking it during the student teaching experience. The opportunity to have had time in a P-12 classroom to apply the knowledge and skills and connect theory and practice that is measured on the exam.

It should be noted that this exam is being revised to be better aligned with the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and reflect the implementation of Common Core Standards for Reading and Math. Test results after January 15, 2014 will need to be scrutinized closely for any fluctuation in scores and may not be comparable to administrations from 2012-2013 and 2013-2014.

Respectfully submitted,

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