Expected Outcomes: Content Knowledge

Elementary Education graduates must possess a base knowledge in the content areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and social studies.

Related typical general education outcomes:
1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
9. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
11. Scientific Literacy

Assessment methods

Method: Praxis II Elemen. Ed. Content Knowledge Exam

The Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge test is designed for prospective teachers of children in primary through upper elementary school grades. The 120 multiple-choice questions focus on four major subject areas: reading/language arts, mathematics, social studies, and science. Test questions are arranged in the test book by subject area. Each of the four content areas constitutes 25 percent of the test. The Alabama State Department of Education graduates requires a minimum scores of 137 for an Alabama Class B K - 6 grade Teaching Certificate.

Findings:

For the academic year of 2011 - 2012, 67 Elementary Education majors took the Praxis II Elementary Education Content Examination. The range of scores were 137 to 197 with a mean rating of 167.64. No students failed the examination.

How did you use findings for improvement?

Elementary Education majors take six content are courses that have been aligned with the Association of Childhood International Education (ACEI) standards in an effort to increase rigor to our content courses.

Additional comments:

None

Expected Outcomes: Teaching Skills in Clinical School Placement

As advocated by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE), the core experience in any teacher preparation program should be clinical school based experiences that are embedded in university coursework. Extensive clinical experiences in a variety of school settings allow Elementary Education teacher candidates the opportunity to translate knowledge into practice under the guidance of practicing teachers. Therefore, for the final clinical placement, a full semester of internship, our students should demonstrate the knowledge, skills, and dispositions of competent teaching practices.
Related typical general education outcomes:
1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
4. Ability to Construct Arguments
5. Ability to Use Mathematical Methods
6. Ability to Solve Open-Ended Problems
7. Written Communication
8. Oral Communication
9. Informed and Engaged Citizenship
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
11. Scientific Literacy
12. Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

**Assessment methods**

**Method:** Classroom Observation

The Classroom Observation instrument is used to evaluate teacher candidates' knowledge and skills necessary for effective teaching. Interns are assessed on their ability to:

- Prepare a lesson
- Orienting students to the content
- Directing and presenting the lesson
- Assessing student learning
- Managing the classroom environment
- Being responsive to diverse learners' needs
- Effective communication

**Findings:**

Overall, on a 4.0 scale (with 4 indicating exemplary) 42 interns scored within a range of 3.56 - 3.87. The lowest indicator was in the area of assessing student learning. The highest indicator was in communication.

**How did you use findings for improvement?**

Content methods courses has increased the amount of focus on assessment of student learning so that students have multiple opportunities to gain knowledge and skills in this area.

**Additional comments:**

None

**Expected Outcomes: Application of Professional Knowledge**

The application of professional knowledge should demonstrate a teacher candidate's ability to integrate theory with practice, to develop and test classroom management and pedagogical skills, and to hone their use of evidence in making professional decisions about practice.
Related typical general education outcomes:

1. Information Literacy
2. Analytical and Critical Reading
3. Ability to Critique Arguments
7. Written Communication
10. Intercultural Knowledge and Diversity Awareness
12. Aesthetic Appreciation and Engagement

Assessment methods

Method: Written Professional Work Sample

The Professional Work Sample (PWS) requires teacher candidates to document their planning, implementation, reflection, and analysis of student learning during their semester long internship experience. The goal of the PWS is to challenge Elementary Education teacher candidates to demonstrate their decision making processes for teaching practices through an in-depth written product.

Findings:

On a 4 point scale (4 indicating exemplary) 44 Elementary Education teacher candidates scored the following on their PWS during internship: Planning 3.78 Implementation of lesson(s) 3.80 Reflection of teaching 3.81 Analysis of student learning 3.72

How did you use findings for improvement?

These findings indicate that our teacher candidates are strongest in the areas of implementation of instruction and the reflection of instruction which is critical in application of professional knowledge. However, teacher candidates continue to need improvement in the area of analysis of student learning.

Additional comments:

None