Expected Outcomes: Professional Knowledge

Elementary teachers earning a Master’s degree should demonstrate professional knowledge in current research based teaching practices in the major content areas of literacy, mathematics, science, and the social studies. In addition, they should be able to demonstrate analytical and critical reading of professional literature in order to construct their personal written arguments for classroom practice.

Assessment methods

**Method: Written Comprehensive Exam**

Graduate students complete a four hour proctored comprehensive examination at the end of their coursework. At least two content area Elementary Education professors provide open ended questions that relate to connecting theory to professional practice on the day of the examination. Students are required to draw upon their knowledge of professional literature regarding current research based teaching practices.

Findings:

The Elementary Program had 11 Master students to successfully pass their written comprehensive examination upon the first attempt.

How did you use findings for improvement?

The pass/fail option does not provide the enough information for program improvement, so the program is implementing a portfolio approach in addition to the comprehensive examination beginning Fall 2012.

Additional comments:

None