

Assessment #1: Content Knowledge (Data from Licensure Tests of Content Knowledge)

a. Brief description of the assessment and its use in the program

This is the state licensure examination that assesses content knowledge in six subfields of social studies. The assessment is the Praxis II, code 5081. Per state requirements, this assessment is taken before TC begin their Clinical 2 experience, which means that most take the test in the spring of their junior years. Students who fail take it again in their senior year.

b. Alignment with NCSS Standards

This assessment aligns to Standards 1a, 1b, and 1c as the Praxis assesses the social science disciplines and content knowledge, disciplinary inquiry, and disciplinary forms of representation.

c. Brief analysis of data findings.

Note that ETS no longer aggregates Praxis data based on the various subsections. This was confirmed in an email to our department that was received in June, 2019. The national and state averages below are the last samples for which the College has data, which date to 2012. These data are admittedly old, but it is included here to provide a basis of comparison with the three samples that are included above. Out of 36 test takers in the sample, 9 failed the test the first time taking it, for a failure rate of 25%. The high standard deviations suggest a wide range of scores, and the Spring 2018 group performed somewhat poorly on the test, with four of nine (44%) students failing. In the Fall, 2018 group, however, only two students failed, for a rate of 14%. If the data below hold any validity it suggests that the three cohorts are in line with state averages on all the subsections, above the national averages on the history sections, but weaker in the other social science categories. For examples, the national average in government was 66% correct, but only 61% for TC at our institution. There are similar variances in geography, economics, and behavioral science.

Figure 1. TCNJ performance in Praxis 2 subsections, compared with national and state averages.						
	US History	World History	Government	Geography	Economics	Behavioral Sci.
National average, 2012	62	58	66	67	62	65
State average, 2012	59	54	59	61	55	61
Average of 3 cohorts outlined above (Fall, 2017, Spring, 2018, Fall 2018)	66	63	61	61	56	56


d. Interpretation for how data provide evidence for meeting standard components.

Data suggests that TC performance on this task is in line with national averages, as the national pass rate on the 2016-2017 Praxis was 75.86 and for the 2017-2018 Praxis was 73.08. This corresponds to the 75% pass rate in the data sets included above. Overall the pass rate for three years of test takers was 76.9% (see Figure 4). Overall TC are performing well in the history

subsections, adequately in the other social science areas, although weaker in behavioral sciences when compared to national averages.

e. Scoring guide for this assessment

Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081)

Test at a Glance			
Test Name	Social Studies: Content Knowledge		
Test Code	5081		
Time	2 hours		
Number of Questions	130		
Format	Selected-response questions		
Test Delivery	Computer delivered		
	Content Categories	Approximate Number of Questions	Approximate Percentage of Examination
	I. United States History	26	20%
	II. World History	26	20%
	III. Government/Civics/Political Science	26	20%
	IV. Geography	19	15%
	V. Economics	20	15%
	VI. Behavioral Sciences	13	10%

TC need a 151 to pass in the state of New Jersey.

g. Candidate data from this assessment

Figure 2. Praxis II Score Data Aggregated by Test Section – Fall 2017 N=13							
Student	Pass? (y/n)	US History % correct	World History % correct	Government % correct	Geography % correct	Economics % correct	Behavioral Sci. % correct
1	N	36	59	43	63	25	31
2	Y	82	50	57	63	44	62
3	N	50	55	61	44	56	38
4	Y	72	59	52	50	43	62
5	Y	91	77	78	50	31	53
6	Y	64	82	87	52	63	54
7	N	41	68	48	56	56	38
8	Y	77	72	70	82	69	77
9	Y	86	59	87	81	75	61
10	Y	82	86	83	75	81	62
11	Y	91	73	87	88	56	69
12	Y	64	50	70	25	75	46
13	Y	64	77	39	56	50	54

Mean	69	67	66	60	57	54
Standard Deviation	18	11	17	17	16	12

Figure 3. Praxis II Score Data Aggregated by Test Section – Spring 2018 N=9							
Student	Pass? (y/n)	US History % correct	World History % correct	Government % correct	Geography % correct	Economics % correct	Behavioral Sci. % correct
1	N	55	59	35	50	50	62
2	N	50	77	39	56	50	31
3	Y	68	68	48	69	63	69
4	Y	68	55	57	69	44	54
5	Y	73	55	65	50	69	69
6	N	36	59	65	56	44	31
7	Y	82	50	74	82	63	54
8	Y	64	59	78	56	63	62
9	N	45	59	48	56	63	54
Mean		60	60	57	60	57	54
Standard Deviation		14	8	14	10	9	13

Figure 4. Praxis II Score Data Aggregated by Test Section – Fall 2018 N=14							
Student	Pass? (y/n)	US History % correct	World History % correct	Government % correct	Geography % correct	Economics % correct	Behavioral Sci. % correct
1	Y	59	59	43	75	38	69
2	Y	86	82	83	68	75	85
3	N	55	73	57	69	25	54
4	Y	36	32	22	43	38	54
5	Y	59	64	57	56	38	69
6	Y	86	82	74	81	50	46
7	Y	77	59	57	50	50	53
8	Y	82	50	57	63	43	62
9	Y	77	64	78	75	75	69
10	Y	73	45	48	56	88	69
11	Y	100	82	87	69	56	62
12	Y	73	68	70	44	81	62
13	N	50	64	57	44	31	31
14	Y	55	55	57	81	81	69
Mean		69	63	61	62	55	61
Standard Deviation		17	14	16	13	20	12

Figure 5. Pass/fail data for above three cohorts		
Cohort	% pass	% fail
Fall 2017 (N=17)	77%	23%
Spring 2018 (N=9)	56%	44%
Fall 2018 (N=14)	86%	14%
Overall (N=40)	73%	27%

Figure 6. Overall pass/fail rate for 3 years Note that this data reflects all students who took the test in these years and represents different cohorts at different points in their academic careers					
<i>Praxis Exam 5081 Social Studies: Content Knowledge</i>					
Academic Year	Number of Test Takers	New Jersey Passing Score	Mean	Performance Range	Pass Rate
2015-2016	21	157	167.66	152-200	80.95%
2016-2017	26	157	166	146-184	75.00%
2017-2018	24	157	161.54	134-186	75.00%