

MEASURE 3: CANDIDATE COMPETENCY AT COMPLETION

(R3.3, RA3.4)

SIUC Initial Programs Content Area Test

For Academic Year 2022 - 2023

BACKGROUND

The purpose of the Content Area Test is to assess a preservice teacher's knowledge and understanding of educational practices foundational to beginning a career as a professional teacher. Successful completion means meeting the cut score (240) to become eligible for a Professional Educator License in the state of Illinois. The data is collected from the Illinois Licensure Testing System (ILTS) report through the Illinois State Board of Education (ISBE). The content area tests are aligned to the Illinois Professional Teaching Standards.

QUALITY ASSURANCE

The constructs measured in the Content Area tests are aligned to the 2014 Illinois Professional Teaching Standards and national standards for individual specialty program areas.

SUPPORT FOR IMPROVEMENT

At the Program Improvement and Assessment Committee (PIAC) meetings, trends over time and comparisons of data from candidates across programs are analyzed. Areas of strength and areas for improvement are identified. Recommendations are then brought to the appropriate stakeholders to be discussed and implemented. This assessment tool and its data are used by programs as a key assessment when reviewing their programs, their candidates' progress. The candidates begin taking their Content Area Test at the time of admission into the Teacher Education Program. The Unit recently implemented a mandatory tutoring session for candidates that fail their Content Area Test two consecutive times before making further attempts.

RESULTS

Initial Programs. The unit data shows that 150 initial program candidates took the contest area test in AY 2022 with 125 passing (83%) in their respective content areas. Initial candidates exceeded state averages in ten program content areas. It is noteworthy that the following programs exceeded state averages by 20% or more: Mathematics, Social Studies, and English Language Arts. As a unit, we are exploring how to better support candidates taking the content test in Agriculture and Art Education.

The unit data for AY 2023 shows that 123 candidates took the content area test with 93 passing (75.6%) in their respective content areas. Candidates taking the Mathematics Content Test and the General Special Education Content Test exceeded state averages on these exams by 38% and 19%. The following program candidates will need additional support next year based on the 2023 results: Elementary Education and Agriculture Education. The Elementary Content Tests underwent a major revision in the last few years.

2022 PASS RATES FOR INITIAL PROGRAMS (test takers: n=150)

Content Area Test	Number Taking Test	# Passed	Pass Rate % Unit	National (State) Avg
Exam 197 ELED Lang Literacy	17	11	65	54
Exam 198 ELED Mathematics	14	10	71	51
Exam 199 ELED Science Social Studies	12	11	92	72
Exam 200 ELED Fine Arts, Physical Health	12	12	100	84
Exam 206 Early Childhood	10	6	60	64
Exam 207 English Lang Arts	3	3	100	80
Exam 155 LBS I Special Ed	29	27	93	91
Exam 105 Sci-Biology	0	0	0	71
Exam 246 Soc Sci-History	6	5	83	81
Exam 163 SPED General Curr	21	19	90	80
Exam 214 Visual Arts (first administered in 2020)	3	2	67	97
Exam 215 Ag Educ	7	4	57	90
Exam 208 Mathematics	6	6	100	63
Exam 212 Music	9	8	89	90
TLP: SPANISH 56	1	1	100	93

2023 PASS RATES FOR INITIAL PROGRAMS (test takers: n=123)

Content Area Test	Number Taking Test	# Passed	Pass Rate % Unit	National (State) Avg
Exam 305 ELED	47	31	66	85
Exam 206 Early Childhood	26	22	85	79
Exam 207 English Lang Arts	8	6	75	87
Exam 155 LBS I Special Ed	2	1	50	90
Exam 246 Soc Sci-History	10	8	80	72
Exam 163 SPED General Curr	4	3	75	56
Exam 214 Visual Arts	7	7	100	91
Exam 215 Ag Educ	12	8	67	85
Exam 208 Mathematics	4	4	100	62
Exam 212 Music	3	3	100	90