Preparing English Education Students for Praxis II Certification Testing

Patricia Pytleski, Todd Dodson, Carissa Pokorny Golden, & Kristina Fennelly
Department of English

ABSTRACT

The Praxis II subject test scores of English Education majors have fallen by 15% since 2008. This assessment grant examines the impact of a preparatory program for the Praxis II, one that focuses on the review and practice of the three areas of testing: literature, composition, and linguistics. Four co-investigators will develop and then teach two sections of a preparatory course, using ETS Praxis II test-taking materials as a basis, to 32 English Education students in their junior year. The course will be conducted twice -- Fall 2013 and Spring 2014 semesters. During each course, class will be held once a week in the evening for two hours (8-9 classes in all), and after an introduction to the course, each week will cover a specific area of the test: literature (4 classes and 60% of the test), composition (2 classes and 30% of the test), and linguistics (2 classes and 10% of the test). Assessment data includes a Praxis II practice test (pre-test measure), the Praxis II exam students take on their own (for which they will submit their scores to the investigators), and indirect measures of students’ confidence in and comfort with the certification exam. Kutztown University’s English and Secondary Education Departments have agreed to participate in this study and will receive the final results. Overall, program results will determine whether to continue the program and if so, whether the program can be expanded into other certification areas covered by the Praxis II.