

UNDERGRADUATE ASSESSMENT #1: Licensure

a. A brief description of the assessment and its use in the program.

Praxis II English Language Arts: Content Knowledge [REDACTED]. This test measures secondary school English Language Arts teacher candidates' mastery of “knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for competent professional practice” (ETS). The test addresses candidates' knowledge and skills related to the following categories: “reading, including the study of literature (stories, drama, poetry) and informational texts (literary nonfiction, including essays, speeches, and biographies), use of the English language (conventions, vocabulary development), and writing, speaking, and listening” (ETS).

All candidates are required to take Praxis II prior to student teaching. The qualifying score is 167 with lower qualifying scores dependent on GPA.

GPA	Qualifying Score
3.01-3.25	166
3.26-3.5	164
3.51-3.75	163
3.76-4.0	162

Overview of Test

Name: English Language Arts: Content Knowledge

Test Code: [REDACTED]

Time: 150 minutes

Number of Questions: 130 selected response questions

Format: Single selection, multiple choice questions with 4 options. Also includes innovative question types: multiple-selection multiple choice, order/match, audio stimulus, table/grid, select in passage, and video stimulus

Test Delivery: Computer delivered

Content Categories: Reading; Language Use and Vocabulary; Writing, Speaking, and Listening

b. A description of how this assessment specifically aligns with the standards it is cited for in Section III. Cite SPA standards by number, title, and/or standard wording.

Praxis II Alignment with NCTE/CAEP Standards

Praxis II [REDACTED] Components	NCTE/CAEP Standards Addressed
Reading	Standard 2 Content Knowledge: Component 2.1
Language Use and Vocabulary	Standard 2 Content Knowledge: Component 2.3
Writing, Speaking, and Listening	Standard 2 Content Knowledge: Component 2.2

c. A brief analysis of the data findings.

A review of data from June 2022-May 2023 shows that 100% of candidates passed the Praxis II [REDACTED] exam. All 14 completers possess sufficient content knowledge, including reading and literature; language use and vocabulary; and writing, speaking, and listening, as measured by this standardized test. Three candidates retook their Praxis II exam, and all three passed on PDE's sliding scale, which allows candidates' slightly lower qualifying scores dependent on GPA. These three scores ranged from 162 to 166.

We have worked hard over the past four years to make our program more accessible by working with students who may be struggling personally or financially by slowing down their time to degree and identifying flexible schedule options and working closely with the Transfer Office, as we have seen an increase in non-traditional students. In increasing accessibility and intensifying our advising to work with students in various challenging and demanding positions, our program has more candidates who may not have experienced prior success on standardized tests and/or are juggling many responsibilities. Additionally, the Basic Skills requirement (the PAPA or Praxis CORE) was a standardized testing barrier for candidates, which typically ensure that candidates who struggled with standardized tests could not progress towards initial certification. PDE has suspended the Basic Skills requirement indefinitely, and prior to that decision, PDE approved [REDACTED] courses that could replace those exams when students earn an A or B. Thus, in the recent past, some of these students would not have been able to progress beyond the PAPA or Praxis CORE requirement. Anecdotally, we have also encountered more testing anxiety in our candidates.

As advisors, we have built in introducing Praxis II [REDACTED] during Step 1 conversations; talking with students one on one and in class about wise study plans and testing schedules; and encouraging persistence.

Goal: get materials that can be checked out at the library ?

- d. **An interpretation of how that data provides evidence for meeting standards, indicating the specific SPA standards by number, title, and/or standard wording.**

In light of the pass rate noted above, Praxis II English Language Arts: Content Knowledge provides ample evidence of program candidates meeting NCTE/CAEP Standards for Initial Preparation of Teachers of Secondary ELA: Content Knowledge Standard 2, including components 2.1, 2.2, and 2.3.

Component 2.1 (candidates' knowledge about texts) is assessed on the test in the Reading section, in which candidates demonstrate knowledge of major works of literature, including non-Western and young adult. They also define characteristics of major forms within primary literary genres, show understanding of how textual evidence supports interpretation of literary texts, indicate understanding of how authors develop themes in a variety of genres, demonstrate understanding of how figurative language contributes to the whole of a literary text, explain how reading strategies support comprehension, and show knowledge of commonly used research-based strategies for reading instruction. The test also measures candidates' knowledge of informational texts and rhetoric,

including demonstrating understanding of how to use textual evidence to support interpretations of informational texts, showing understanding of the connection between diction and the effect on informational texts, and indicating understanding of how rhetorical strategies contribute to purpose and perspective.

Component 2.2 (candidates' knowledge of composing) are assessed in the Writing, Speaking, and Listening section. In this section, candidates identify characteristics of various modes of writing; show understanding of how task, purpose, and audience contribute to effective writing; identify features of effective writing; demonstrate understanding of effective and ethical research practices; identify components of effective speeches and presentations; explain how to provide instruction on the effective uses of digital media to enhance communication; demonstrate understanding of research-based approaches to teaching writing; and demonstrate understanding of how to assess reading, writing, speaking, and listening.

Component 2.3 (candidates' knowledge of language) is assessed in the Language Use and Vocabulary section, in which candidates demonstrate understanding of the conventions of Standard English and the use of affixes, content, and syntax to determine word meaning. Candidates also show understanding of the use of print and digital reference materials to support and enhance language usage and show familiarity with variations in dialect and diction as a result of regions, cultural groups, and time periods. Finally, candidates demonstrate understanding of research-based approaches for supporting language acquisition and vocabulary development for diverse learners. Finally, candidates demonstrate knowledge of how to accommodate various perspectives, cultures, and backgrounds in the teaching of English language arts.

- e. The assessment tool itself or a rich description of the assessment.

Praxis II English Language Arts: Content Knowledge [REDACTED]. This test is designed to measure whether English language arts teacher candidates possess standards-based knowledge, skills, and abilities necessary for effective teaching. The test aligns with the Common Core State Standards for English language arts and measures candidates' skills and knowledge of concepts relevant to 3 categories: reading; the use of the English language; and writing, speaking, and listening. The test consists of 130 selected-response questions that address these 3 categories, and the following number of questions are included within each category: Reading 49 questions (38%), Language Use and Vocabulary 33 questions (25%), and Writing, Speaking and Listening 48 questions (37%). The following directions are given to test takers for selected-response questions in the Reading Section:

“Each of the questions or statements below is followed by suggested answers or completions, except for question 12, which asks you to place marks in table columns, and question 17, which asks you to select one or more answers. In each case, select the answer(s) that is best.

For constructed response questions, examinees are asked to demonstrate knowledge in a subject by creating their own responses to a topic; e.g. discuss the extent to which one agrees or disagrees with an opinion by providing evidence and support.

- f. The scoring guide for the assessment.

Upon completion of the test, candidates receive score reports that include the following information:

- candidate's score and whether he/she passed
- range of possible scores
- raw points available in each content category
- range of the middle 50 percent of scores on the test

Because this test includes questions grouped into content categories, score reports include raw points earned in each content category; thus, candidates may compare raw points earned with maximum number of points possible in each category.

g. Charts that provide candidate data derived from the assessment.

Praxis II English Language Arts: Content Knowledge [REDACTED]

Fourteen completers reported Praxis II scores from June 2022-May 2023.

June 2022-May 2023

Test	Number	No. of exams passed	No. of exams failed	Minimum Score	Maximum Score	Mean	Median
English Language Arts: Content Knowledge 5038	14	14	0	162	198	176	176.5

	Final Scores
1.	175
2.	169
3.	179
4.	164 (passed with GPA 3.77), retook
5.	181
6.	173
7.	198
8.	162 (passed with GPA 3.8), retook
9.	166 (passed with GPA 3.48), retook
10.	183
11.	178
12.	184
13.	180
14.	173