

## **INSTITUTIONAL REPORT ON THE QUALITY OF TEACHER PREPARATION: TITLE II, HIGHER EDUCATION ACT**

The institutional report on the quality of teacher preparation is a report required of institutions of higher education with teacher preparation programs. All such institutions are now required to make annual reports under Title II of the Higher Education Act, including releasing their Title II report to the public.

The information in this report consists of the required licensure test pass rates of students in programs with ten or more students who completed the teacher education program within the reporting period (academic year 1999-2000). Information will be available about the statewide pass rate on these tests as well as other basic information about the institution's teacher preparation program. PRAXIS II is the test currently required for students to gain licensure to teach.

PRAXIS II is a standardized test developed and administered by ETS, the Educational Testing Service. Teacher preparation students in Ohio take one or more of these tests depending upon the content area and age level they seek to teach. There are 36 different PRAXIS II tests in use in Ohio: most of the tests are in arts and sciences or fine and applied arts content areas (e.g. music, mathematics, science, art, etc.) while some are in professional education. There are also some fields for which tests are still being developed. They represent the performance of teacher preparation students on paper and pencil tests of either content area knowledge or professional education knowledge. Eventually Ohio will also have PRAXIS III information about teachers in their first year of teaching; this additional information will provide an indicator of their actual teaching performance.

The institution will report scores for all teacher education students who completed their programs in 1999-2000. If those students subsequently re-took a test in 2001, their scores will be not be reported in this April's data but in later years. Also, if for any given test there were fewer than 10 test takers from an institution, the scores for that test will not be reported. Delaying the reporting of these small numbers prevents conclusions being drawn from insufficient numbers of students and preserves student confidentiality. In later years when the numbers of test takers for a test reach 10 or more, the institution will report the scores.

The scores can be compared to the expectations for passing as set by the Ohio Board of Education. When passing scores were established for PRAXIS II tests, the board purposefully set them high, among the highest in the nation, as a way to communicate its high standards for those who enter the profession. The scores can also be compared to the anticipated pass rates across the nation and the average score for Ohio test-takers. These comparisons provide indicators of the expectations of the Ohio Board of Education for Ohio test takers as well as comparisons of the success rate of Youngstown State University students to the average in the state. For example, in 1999-2000, Ohio's PRAXIS II pass rate on the English/language arts content knowledge test was 76.5%, while the anticipated pass rate would be 70% if the Ohio pass score of 167 were used for all the test takers in the nation. This means that Ohio's future English/language arts teachers scored 6.5% higher than the national average.

The State of Ohio will report the scores from all teacher education institutions in fall 2001. At that point all institutions will be grouped into quartiles to reflect their passing rates. Because some institutions require passage of PRAXIS II as a component of completing a program and other programs may differ in the kinds of students they recruit into teaching (undergraduate or graduate), comparisons among institutions, to be meaningful, must

take into account the program designs at the institutions and their impact on students' likelihood of passing the tests prior to completing the program. Youngstown State University does not require passing of PRAXIS II for program completion.

Students must pass the appropriate licensure test to receive a license to teach from the state of Ohio. Employers prefer, and are often obligated by law, to hire licensed teachers. For the institution, the passing score provides one measure of quality of the institution as it prepares teachers. If an institution is determined to be low-performing as defined by the state of Ohio, it and its students can lose certain forms of federal aid. The state of Ohio has not yet established an approved definition of low-performing but will within the next year.