

Prep Resources: How to Improve Prep in this Area

Standard 6: Elementary Content

KEY STANDARD — Graduate Elementary Programs

Follow these steps to improve your preparation program and your score:

- ☐ **1st:** Require either individual subject tests or a test with individual subject scores in elementary content for admission into the program.
- ☐ **2nd:** Review transcripts to ensure that applicants have taken courses that give them adequate preparation in the four core content areas – English, mathematics, history, and science (and ensure they've taken at least one science lab course).
- ☐ **3rd:** Require that candidates have an undergraduate major or its equivalent in a subject relevant to the elementary grades (e.g., English, history, mathematics, biology, Spanish, art history).

A common reason programs do not meet the elementary content standard

Graduate programs fail to require or specify the content area coverage their potential teacher candidates should have attained as undergraduates. Transcript review forms and admissions requirements rarely include information on what graduate teacher preparation programs expect teacher candidates to know before enrolling.

Solution: Conduct a transcript review. If prospective teacher candidates are weak in some content areas, require them to take courses as a condition of admission or as part of their graduate coursework.

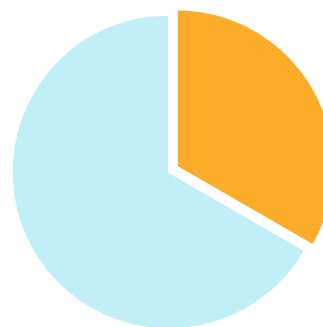
Ensuring that incoming elementary teacher candidates have the content they need is essential. If candidates lack that content, programs need to make sure teacher candidates learn it while in graduate school.

LOOKING FOR A STRONG TEST FOR ADMISSION?

Satisfactory tests include:

Praxis II – Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Test
 Advanced Placement (AP)
 SAT II Subject Tests
 College Level Examination Program (CLEP)
 Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)
 International Baccalaureate (IB)

Over 1/3 of programs we review **don't outline any specific elementary content requirements** for applicants.



Leaderboard

A few programs that meet this standard:

Coming fall 2016

Follow the links below to learn more

Exemplary Programs & Findings nctq.org/dmsView/Teacher_Prep_Review_2014_Std6
 Methodology & Rationale nctq.org/dmsView/Standard_Book_6
 Resources nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/resources/index.jsp