

Greater socioeconomic diversity and high pass rates

Case study: Texas A&M International University

Texas A&M International University proves that with less selective admissions standards and greater socioeconomic diversity, the institution can exceed the state’s average for first-time pass rates.

Effective use of data has helped **Texas A&M International University (TAMIU)** identify where teacher candidates need support with content knowledge and find the best ways to assist them. Dr. James O’Meara, Dean of the College of Education, describes the college’s approach to assisting teacher candidates as “knowing every student by name and need.”

Almost three-quarters of TAMIU’s students transfer in from community colleges, and their content preparation varies widely. After deciding that earlier efforts to assist students with licensure exams were not sufficient, TAMIU began using a web-based program, *Certify Teacher*, to help future teachers chart a path to passing their licensure exams. Teacher candidates take a diagnostic test at the beginning of their junior year, and the program generates a study plan based on areas of need, incorporating practice test questions and content review. Data tracked by *Certify Teacher* allows TAMIU to assist teacher candidates individually. For example, if a student has stopped studying for several weeks, an Academic Success Coach should reach out to the student to see if he or she needs additional support, such as help with time management or a referral to tutoring through the Student Success center.

TAMIU is focused on “data for realizing equity,” according to Dr. O’Meara. He states that teacher candidates at TAMIU share a tremendous commitment to teaching, and the university’s goal is to ensure that all teacher candidates have access to the preparation they need to succeed. TAMIU’s use of data to make the teacher pipeline more equitable extends beyond currently enrolled teacher candidates. “For example, the data can identify Laredo high schools and neighborhoods that provide these candidates and assess if they have access to the needed resources and support to create pathways to teaching for often unrepresented corners of our community,” O’Meara explained.

TAMIU's focus on data has paid off. **In comparison with other institutions that serve large numbers of students from low-income families (as shown by the number of students receiving Pell grants) and that have relatively low selectivity, TAMIU shines: 72% of elementary teacher candidates pass the Texas Examinations of Educator Standards (TEXES) Core Subjects EC-6 Social Studies subtest¹ on their first try, compared with an overall state average of 71%.**

Texas A&M International University is an urban, public institution with approximately 8,300 students.

ENDNOTES

- 1 The social studies subtest is used for comparison because composite pass rates are not available and the state average pass rate on this subtest is lower than those for other subtests in the state.

Institutions that have greater socioeconomic diversity and exceed the state's average pass rate

The following 161 institutions across 31 states disprove the notion that high pass rates on licensure tests are the purview of wealthier institutions. These institutions have a higher proportion of Pell grant recipients among their undergraduate students than the national average, 35%¹, and they have pass rates that exceed the average in the state.²

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
AL	University of Montevallo	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	53%	54%	40%
AL	University of North Alabama	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	53%	55%	40%
AR	Central Baptist College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	91%	44%
AR	University of Arkansas - Fort Smith	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	40%	45%
AR	University of Central Arkansas	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	41%	41%
AR	University of the Ozarks	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	50%	42%
AZ	Prescott College (online)	Subtest - Subtest II 103 (Mathematics; Science; & the arts, health, and fitness)	63%	82%	46%
CO	Colorado Mesa University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	48%	36%
CT	University of Bridgeport	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	40%	41%	47%
FL	Daytona State College	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	47%	41%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
FL	Eastern Florida State College	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	100%	39%
FL	Florida South Western State College	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	35%	36%
FL	Miami Dade College	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	40%	51%
FL	South Florida State College	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	34%	45%
FL	Southeastern University	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	40%	38%
FL	State College of Florida, Manatee-Sarasota	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	46%	40%
FL	The Baptist College of Florida	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	50%	62%
FL	Trinity International University-Florida	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	100%	63%
FL	University of Central Florida	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	41%	38%
FL	University of South Florida	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	41%	38%
FL	University of South Florida Sarasota-Manatee	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	39%	41%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
FL	University of South Florida St. Petersburg	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	36%	41%
FL	University of West Florida	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	60%	38%
FL	Valencia College	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	37%	40%
FL	Warner University	Composite - Florida Teacher Certification Examination (FTCE) Elementary Education (060) Test	34%	63%	65%
IA	Briar Cliff University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	81%	84%	42%
IA	Emmaus Bible College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	81%	88%	42%
IA	Faith Baptist Bible College and Theological Seminary	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	81%	100%	48%
IA	Mount Mercy University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	81%	91%	37%
IA	Waldorf University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	81%	84%	49%
IL	Benedictine University	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	71%	39%
IL	Concordia University Chicago	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	73%	43%
IL	Elmhurst College	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	83%	36%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
IL	Eureka College	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	82%	41%
IL	McKendree University	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	77%	37%
IL	North Park University	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	71%	40%
IL	Roosevelt University	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	90%	44%
IL	Trinity International University	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	90%	40%
IL	Western Illinois University	Subtest - Subtest 1: Language and Literacy (197)	70%	74%	48%
KY	Berea College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	55%	83%
KY	Eastern Kentucky University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	47%	40%
KY	Kentucky Christian University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	46%	47%
KY	Kentucky Wesleyan College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	50%	46%
KY	Lindsey Wilson College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	54%	60%
KY	University of Pikeville	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	46%	56%	44%
KS	Haskell Indian Nations University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	90%	94%	70%
KS	Tabor College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	90%	92%	41%
LA	Centenary College of Louisiana	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	45%	83%	36%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
LA	Northwestern State University of Louisiana	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	45%	46%	42%
MA	Bay Path University	Subtest - Mathematics subtest	50%	53%	60%
MA	Eastern Nazarene College	Subtest - Mathematics subtest	50%	67%	44%
MA	Salem State University	Subtest - Mathematics subtest	50%	58%	36%
MA	University of Massachusetts Boston	Subtest - Mathematics subtest	50%	72%	41%
MD	Frostburg State University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications (5019) test	90%	93%	37%
MI	Cornerstone University	Composite - Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC): General Elementary Content (103) Test	79%	86%	39%
MI	Spring Arbor University	Composite - Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC): General Elementary Content (103) Test	79%	86%	41%
MI	University of Michigan-Flint	Composite - Michigan Test for Teacher Certification (MTTC): General Elementary Content (103) Test	79%	83%	40%
MN	Crown College	Subtest: Science & social studies	83%	92%	42%
MN	Hamline University	Subtest: Science & social studies	83%	85%	36%
MN	St. Catherine University	Subtest: Science & social studies	83%	88%	39%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
MO	Baptist Bible College	Subtest - 010 Elementary Education: Social Studies Subtest	70%	77%	56%
MO	Calvary University	Subtest - 010 Elementary Education: Social Studies Subtest	70%	92%	47%
MO	College of the Ozarks	Subtest - 010 Elementary Education: Social Studies Subtest	70%	72%	54%
MO	Culver-Stockton College	Subtest - 010 Elementary Education: Social Studies Subtest	70%	74%	39%
MO	Southwest Baptist University	Subtest - 010 Elementary Education: Social Studies Subtest	70%	71%	40%
NE	York College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	90%	100%	49%
NH	Granite State College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	43%	50%	43%
NJ	Rutgers University-Camden	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	34%	35%	47%
NM	The University of New Mexico	Subtest - Subtest II 103 (Mathematics; Science; & the arts, health, and fitness)	66%	70%	37%
NV	University of Nevada-Las Vegas	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Instructional Practice and Applications (5019) test	86%	88%	36%
NY	Alfred University	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	80%	39%
NY	Cazenovia College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	73%	48%
NY	CUNY Hunter College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	77%	45%
NY	Hartwick College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	88%	37%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
NY	Houghton College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	82%	41%
NY	Keuka College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	81%	47%
NY	State University of New York at Fredonia	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	83%	40%
NY	State University of New York at Oswego	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	90%	42%
NY	SUNY at Albany	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	95%	41%
NY	SUNY Brockport The College at Brockport	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	78%	41%
NY	SUNY Buffalo State College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	74%	54%
NY	SUNY Plattsburgh	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	86%	39%
NY	SUNY Potsdam The State University of New York at Potsdam	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	75%	50%
NY	Utica College	Subtest - Part Two: Mathematics Subtest (222)	73%	80%	36%
OH	Bluffton University	Subtest - Subtest 2 (Social studies, math, science and health, fitness and the arts) (019)	72%	78%	37%
OH	Cincinnati Christian University	Subtest - Subtest 2 (Social studies, math, science and health, fitness and the arts) (019)	72%	77%	42%
OR	Bushnell University	Subtest - Subtest II 103 (Mathematics; Science; & the arts, health, and fitness)	80%	81%	44%
PA	Cairn University	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	79%	43%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
PA	Cedar Crest College	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	69%	43%
PA	Clarion University of Pennsylvania	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	64%	39%
PA	Clarks Summit University	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	90%	57%
PA	Geneva College	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	73%	37%
PA	Indiana University of Pennsylvania	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	75%	37%
PA	Lock Haven University	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	65%	39%
PA	Reading Area Community College	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	67%	55%
PA	Thiel College	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	65%	43%
PA	University of Pittsburgh at Greensburg	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	79%	36%
PA	University of Valley Forge	Subtest - Module 3 (Math, science and health)	62%	83%	45%
SC	Bob Jones University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	65%	37%
SC	Charleston Southern University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	55%	48%
SC	Coker University (formerly Coker College)	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	65%	53%
SC	Columbia International University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	59%	45%
SC	Converse College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	60%	45%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
SC	Erskine College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	83%	38%
SC	Newberry College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	64%	45%
SC	Winthrop University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	52%	60%	41%
TN	Carson-Newman University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	98%	41%
TN	Carson-Newman University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	77%	41%
TN	East Tennessee State University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	93%	41%
TN	East Tennessee State University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	75%	41%
TN	Johnson University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	99%	45%
TN	Johnson University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	76%	45%
TN	King University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	72%	47%
TN	Martin Methodist College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	100%	49%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
TN	Martin Methodist College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	86%	49%
TN	Maryville College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	97%	42%
TN	Maryville College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	69%	42%
TN	Middle Tennessee State University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	95%	41%
TN	South College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	71%	52%
TN	Southern Adventist University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	96%	36%
TN	Southern Adventist University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	86%	36%
TN	Tusculum University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge (5018) test	67%	68%	54%
TN	University of Memphis	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Curriculum, Instruction and Assessment (5017) test	93%	93%	46%
TX	Arlington Baptist University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	100%	49%
TX	Concordia University Texas	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	81%	43%
TX	East Texas Baptist University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	95%	43%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
TX	Houston Baptist University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	82%	43%
TX	Howard Payne University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	82%	43%
TX	Lubbock Christian University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	77%	36%
TX	McLennan Community College	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	74%	40%
TX	Midwestern State University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	71%	39%
TX	Sam Houston State University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	74%	38%
TX	Southwestern Adventist University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	79%	51%
TX	Southwestern Assemblies of God University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	73%	53%
TX	St. Mary's University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	78%	46%
TX	Stephen F. Austin State University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	77%	41%
TX	Tarleton State University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	74%	41%
TX	Texas A&M International University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	72%	51%
TX	Texas A&M University-Central Texas	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	79%	53%
TX	Texas State University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	78%	36%
TX	Texas Wesleyan University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	81%	43%
TX	University of Houston	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	72%	38%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
TX	University of Mary Hardin-Baylor	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	88%	41%
TX	University of North Texas	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	82%	36%
TX	University of North Texas at Dallas	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	73%	55%
TX	University of the Incarnate Word	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	79%	40%
TX	Wayland Baptist University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	81%	37%
TX	West Texas A&M University	Subtest - Social Studies Subtest (803)	71%	71%	36%
VA	Anonymous institution A	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	57%	72%	41%
VA	Anonymous institution B	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	57%	58%	51%
VA	Anonymous institution C	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	57%	86%	50%
VT	Goddard College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	56%	64%	59%
VT	Green Mountain College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	56%	67%	41%
WV	Alderson Broaddus University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	44%	47%
WV	Appalachian Bible College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	44%	37%
WV	Fairmont State University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	44%	42%
WV	Glenville State College	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	45%	46%

State	Institution	Test or subtest used for comparison	State average first-attempt pass rate	Institution first-attempt pass rate	Percent of undergraduates who receive Pell grant
WV	Marshall University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	40%	41%
WV	Ohio Valley University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	40%	54%
WV	West Liberty University	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	44%	39%
WV	West Virginia University at Parkersburg	Composite - Praxis II Elementary Education: Multiple Subjects (5001) test	39%	46%	49%

ENDNOTES

- 1 On average for the time period of interest (2015–2018 academic years), 35.3% of undergraduate students received Pell grants, <https://nces.ed.gov/ipeds/TrendGenerator/app/answer/8/35>. For that reason, institutions are grouped by 35% or fewer undergraduates receiving Pell grants and 36% or more receiving Pell grants.
- 2 When the state provided composite pass rate data, composite pass rates were used to identify strong institutions. When composite data was not available, analysis focused on the subtest that had the lowest state average pass rate, as this presumably is the test on which test takers face the greatest challenges.