

**Notre Dame of Maryland School of Education**  
**MSCHE Annual Institutional Update Report**  
**(AIU) 2020**

**School of Education 2016-17, 2017-18, and 2018-19 Praxis Core and Praxis Content Knowledge Results for Teacher Candidates in Maryland – A Three Year Perspective**

The Title II Act, *Preparing, Training, and Recruiting High Quality Teachers and Principals*, is designed to support teacher (and principal) training and recruiting to:

- (1) increase student academic achievement through strategies such as improving teacher and principal quality and increasing the number of highly qualified teachers in the classroom and highly qualified principals and assistant principals in schools; and
- (2) hold local educational agencies and schools accountable for improvements in student academic achievement.

[\[https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg20.html \]](https://www2.ed.gov/policy/elsec/leg/esea02/pg20.html)

As part of this accountability process, each academic year, Notre Dame of Maryland University is responsible for reporting how many program completers have taken and passed key national assessments that are part of the Maryland State requirements for teacher certification.

**Praxis Core Assessment Results**

The first is the *Praxis Core* assessments (launched in 2013) which include three separate tests. Depending upon the program of study, passing these three assessments may be a prerequisite for admission to the School of Education or may be completed at some time during the candidate's program of study. These three separate tests measure reading (Form 5712), writing (Form 5722) and mathematics (Form 5732) skills that are considered to be the most relevant to one's success in an Educator Preparation Program (EPP) and in the teaching profession. Praxis tests measure a teacher candidate's academic skills and subject-specific content knowledge. Recognition by CAEP, the national accrediting body, underscores the value of Praxis Core both for admission into an EPP and for the teacher certification process.

Notwithstanding this Praxis Core requirement, not all candidates need to take this foundational Praxis assessment. In lieu of the Praxis Core, Maryland accepts the following demonstrations of overall content knowledge:

- SAT taken as of 4/95, combined math and critical reading scores of 1100
- SAT taken prior to 4/95, math and verbal score of 1000
- ACT composite score of 24

- GPA of 3.0 on most recent degree, undergraduate or higher
- GRE taken as of 9/1/11, math and verbal score of 297
- GRE taken prior to 9/1/11, math and verbal score of 1000

Of 181 teacher candidates who completed the program requirements in 2018-2019, 121 (66.8%) did not have to take the Praxis Core as they were granted the aforementioned waiver. This percentage of waivers was significantly higher than in 2017-2018 when 72 of 142 teacher candidates (50.7%) were exempted.

The remainder of teacher candidates were obliged to pass the Core Praxis assessments. Table 1.0 below shows that 60, 60 and 59 teacher candidates took the Math, Reading and Writing Core Academic Skills test, respectively. 59 of the 60 candidates (98%) passed the Math test; 60 of the 60 candidates (100%) passed the Reading test; and 59 of 59 candidates (100%) passed the Writing test. These results were comparable to the previous year, 2017-2018, when 70, 70 and 68 teacher candidates took the Math, Reading and Writing Core Academic Skills test, respectively, and 70 of the 70 candidates (100%) passed the Math test; 70 of the 70 candidates (100%) passed the Reading test; and 68 of 68 candidates (100%) passed the Writing test. Thus, overall, all save one candidate was successful in meeting the initial Praxis Core requirements. These scores also mirrored those of the previous year, 2016-2017.

One can also observe in Table 1 that the average scaled score for candidates at Notre Dame of Maryland University in 2018-2019 remains significantly higher than the required passing score for certification in Maryland (14 points higher in Math, 25 points higher in Reading, and 12 points higher in Writing). Similar results were achieved in 2017-2018 when the NDMU candidates exceeded the passing score in Maryland by: 14 points in Math, 26 points in Reading, and 9 points in Writing. These overall results have held constant for this three-year cycle.

**Table 1.0 - Praxis Core Results for Three Years: 2016-17, 2017-2018, and 2018-2019**

Praxis Core - Assessment Code and Name	Year	Number Taking Tests	Average Scaled Score	Number Passing Tests	Pass Rate (%)	Required Passing Score
ETS5732 – CORE Academic Skills for Math	18-19	60	164	59	98	150
	17-18	70	164	70	100	150
	16-17	53	165	52	98	150
	18-19	60	181	60	100	156

ETS5712 – CORE Academic Skills for Reading	17-18	70	182	70	100	156
	16-17	49	183	49	100	156
ETS5722 – CORE Academic Skills for Writing	18-19	59	170	59	100	162
	17-18	68	171	68	100	162
	16-17	47	173	47	100	162

### Praxis Content Knowledge Test Results

As of July 2018, the State of Maryland ushered in a new round of Praxis assessments required of all elementary education candidates. These four assessments (in Mathematics, Reading and Language Arts, Science and Social Studies) are in addition to the aforementioned Praxis Core tests in Reading, Writing and Mathematics. One 2017-2018 candidate opted to take these four assessments even though they did not become a formal requirement until 2018-2019 - See Table 2.0. Due to such a small ‘N,’ no results could be obtained as there must be at least 10 teacher candidates who take an individual content test in order for a pass rate and scaled score to be calculated by the Educational Testing Service (ETS). In the most recent 2018-2019 year, however, 28 teacher candidates completed all four of these required assessments. The results could not have been more favorable: 100% of these 28 candidates passed all four of these Mathematics, Reading and Language Arts, Science and Social Studies content knowledge assessments. Moreover, they significantly exceeded the required passing score by 23 points in Math, 18 points in Reading, 30 points in Science and 22 points in Social studies.

**Table 2.0 – New Praxis Content Knowledge Test Results 2017-2018 and 2018-2019**

Content Knowledge Test - Assessment Code and Name	Year	Number Taking Tests	Average Scaled Score	Number Passing Tests	Pass Rate (%)	Required Passing Score
ETS7803 - Elementary Education: Mathematics CKT	2018-19	28	173	28	100	150
	2017-18	1	-	-	-	150
ETS7802 - Elementary Education: Reading and Language Arts CKT	2018-19	28	179	28	100	161
	2017-18	1	-	-	-	161
	2018-19	28	184	28	100	154

ETS7804 - Elementary Education: Science CKT	2017-18	1	-	-	-	154
ETS7805 - Elementary Education: Social Studies	2018-19	28	177	28	100	155
	2017-18	1	-	-	-	155

Once again, in 2018-2019, the School of Education at Notre Dame of Maryland University is very proud of these test results and aims to continue to have 100% of its teacher candidates pass the Praxis Core and the new Content Knowledge Tests, as well as the Praxis II assessments.