

The state of Texas requires individuals seeking teaching certification to pass the Texas Examination of Educator Standards (TExES). TExES is a comprehensive examination of content knowledge in the certification areas offered by the state as part of the requirements for teacher certification. Candidate performance on these content examinations serves as an indicator of candidates' proficiency related to content knowledge necessary to succeed in an increasingly challenging social, political, and professional milieu of public school systems. Candidates who pass the required TExES examinations and complete all program requirements at Prairie View A&M University (PVAMU) meet the requirements for teacher certification in the state of Texas.

Initial candidates are required to pass two TExES examinations, one for content and one for professional and pedagogical knowledge and skills. Program areas including Math, Science, History, English Language, these program areas are outside the College of Education in other colleges within the University, the TExES subject matter examinations are especially useful in that they provide a robust, uniform measurement of how external programs are meeting the needs of candidates. These TExES pass rates are used by the Unit as a general measurement of how well candidates in each area are being prepared, and to set general expectations for programs.

During 2005-2007, the aggregate initial and final pass rates of the Unit's graduates on the state certification TExES examinations was approximately 88%. Sixteen of the Unit's twenty-nine programs (55%) had pass rates greater than 80%. Nine other programs (31%) including Science (4-8), Superintendent, Life Science (8-12), Mathematics (8-12), Music (EC-12), Social Studies (4-8), English Language Arts and Reading (4-8), Generalist (4-8), and Physical Education (EC-12) fell below a 80% pass rate. Four programs (approximately 14%), Secondary Art, Generalist ESL (EC-4), Physics/Mathematics (8-12), and Secondary Spanish had no candidates take the test during 2006-2007 period.