

**Praxis Subject Test Data**  
**University of Montana Western**  
**Education Division**  
**For Discussion/Evaluation | May 13, 2021**

- The EPP met on May 13, 2021 to evaluate the following data.
- Three cycles of data—and more—are represented here.
- The EPP’s analysis of the data can be found at the conclusion of this document.

**Percentage of Total Volume of Test Takers, by Grade Level**

For the academic year 2020-21, the following percentages were recorded on the ETS Data Manager Dashboard page as of 5/12/2021.

<b>Elementary Education</b>	<b>All Grades</b> (K-12 degrees)	<b>School Services</b> (Special Education and Library Media)	<b>Secondary Education</b>	<b>Early Childhood Education</b>
37.11%	17.53%	5.15%	23.71%	16.49%

**Pass Rates by Volume**

For the academic year 2020-21, the following pass rates were reported on the ETS *Data Manager Dashboard*, as of 5/12/2021. In this section of the Data Manager, pass rates are reported for the highest volume of test takers (i.e., Elementary Education, in the case of Montana Western), to the lowest volume of test takers (i.e., Library Media Specialists, in the case of Montana Western). For test-taker-groups where N < 5 test takers, pass rates are not reported on the Dashboard. The numbers in parentheses refer to the identifying numbers assigned by ETS to each Praxis exam.

Elementary Education Content Knowledge (5018/0018)	66.67%
Early Childhood Education (5025/0025)	87.5%
Business Education: Content Knowledge (5101/0101)	100%
Health and P.E. (5857/0857)	71.43%
Social Studies: Content Knowledge (5081/0081)	83.3%
Special Education: Core Knowledge & Applications (5354/0354)	100%
Library Media Specialist (5311/0311)	80%

**Overview: Five Years of Praxis Subject Test Data**  
**AY 2015-16 to AY 2019-20**

**Note:** For the exam types listed below, at the top of each table, the **passing score** range is given first, which earns a teacher candidate 3 points on the MACK (Montana Assessment of Content Knowledge) Verification system. The next score range listed is considered “acceptable,” which earns a candidate 2 points on the MACK. The third score range is one which earns the candidate only 1 point on the MACK, and is carefully examined by the Licensure Director, to decide whether or not the candidate can be recommended for licensure. (Other elements of the MACK—the candidate’s GPA and the Content Knowledge Evaluation Form, scored by the mentor teacher—are taken into consideration.) The final score range shown for each table is considered unacceptable, and receives 0 points on the MACK.

**Elementary Education: Content Knowledge—163 – 200; 147 – 162; 130 – 146; <130**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	402	41	350	39	169.03	164.08	245	18	70.00	46.15
2016-17	412	36	362	32	170.20	165.63	264	18	72.93	56.25
2017-18	382	43	342	42	170.89	164.48	254	25	74.27	59.52
2018-19	354	66	317	57	168.05	152.81	223	21	70.35	36.84
2019-20	254	44	238	41	189.21	162.49	167	27	70.17	65.85

**Early Childhood Education—156 – 200; 140 – 155; 125 – 129; < 125**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	7	6	7	6	177.29	178.50	7	6	100	100
2017-18	25	14	24	13	172.54	169.46	21	11	87.5	84.62
2018-19	37	21	37	21	175.03	176.33	36	21	97.30	100
2019-20	37	16	37	16	172.46	170.21	33	16	89.19	84.21

**English Language Arts: Content Knowledge—167 – 200; 150 – 166; 134 – 149; <134**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	75	5	71	4	180.46	---	64	---	90.14	---
2016-17	52	7	49	6	179.57	164.33	45	4	91.84	66.67
2017-18	62	8	60	8	180.75	174.88	54	7	90.00	87.5
2018-19	55	7	53	7	179.85	181.71	49	7	92.45	100
2019-20	50	7	49	7	180.51	179.14	46	6	93.88	85.7

**General Social Studies: Content Knowledge—155 – 200; 140 – 154; 124 – 139; <124**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	29	4	27	4	168.04	---	22	---	81.48	---
2016-17	39	4	38	4	169.34	---	34	---	89.47	---
2017-18	41	9	41	9	171.17	166.22	39	9	94.12	100
2018-19	46	5	46	5	169.98	165.60	39	3	86.67	60.0
2019-20	38	3	38	3	171.00	---	33	---	86.19	---

**World & U.S. History: Content Knowledge—146 – 200; 131 – 145; 117 – 130; <117**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	28	2	28	2	161.32	---	23	---	82.14	---
2016-17	37	2	37	2	165.41	---	35	---	94.59	---
2017-18	32	3	32	3	163.41	---	29	---	90.63	---
2018-19	24	4	20	4	157.30	---	16	---	80.00	---
2019-20	19	4	18	3	159.78	---	14	---	77.78	---

**Health and Physical Education: Content Knowledge—155 – 200; 140 – 154; 124 – 139; <124**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	34	6	31	6	167.58	166.67	30	5	96.77	83.33
2017-18	41	10	37	10	167.14	163.60	33	9	89.19	90.0
2018-19	45	19	43	17	165.58	163.76	40	16	93.02	94.12
2019-20	36	13	36	13	167.69	166.85	34	12	94.44	92.31

**Business Education: Content Knowledge—154 – 200; 139 – 153; 123 – 138; <123**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	1	1	1	1	---	---	---	---	---	---
2017-18	8	7	7	6	164.43	164.17	7	6	100	100
2018-19	9	7	9	7	175.89	174.43	8	6	88.89	85.71
2019-20	6	6	6	6	171.67	171.67	6	6	100	100

**Biology: Content Knowledge—151 – 200; 136 – 150; 121 – 135; <121**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	20	1	20	1	171.45	---	19	---	95.00	---
2016-17	18	2	18	2	172.56	---	17	---	94.44	---
2017-18	14	3	14	3	169.93	---	13	---	92.86	---
2018-19	10	1	10	1	175.40	---	10	---	100	---
2019-20	13	1	13	1	168.23	---	12	---	92.31	---

**Earth and Space Sciences: Content Knowledge—151 – 200; 136 – 150; 121 – 135; <121**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	3	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2017-18	3	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2018-19	2	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2019-20	4	1	4	1	---	---	---	---	---	---

**General Science: Content Knowledge—152 – 200; 147 – 151; 122 – 136; <122**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	31	1	31	1	171.35	---	27	---	87.10	---
2016-17	38	6	36	4	175.03	---	32	---	88.89	---
2017-18	28	2	26	2	175.46	---	25	---	96.15	---
2018-19	37	2	37	2	178.27	---	36	---	97.30	---
2019-20	24	4	23	3	179.00	---	22	---	95.65	---

**Mathematics: Content Knowledge—160 – 200; 144 – 159; 128 – 143; <128**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	65	8	47	4	152.64		21		44.68	
2016-17	68	6	48	4	160.13		27		56.25	
2017-18	51	4	43	4	157.53		20		46.51	
2018-19	49	--	37	---	158.41	---	19	---	51.35	---
2019-20	42	10	32	6	155.53	150.5	14	2	43.75	33.33

**Art: Content Knowledge—158 – 200; 142 – 157; 126 – 141; <126**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	24	5	23	5	160.57	150.40	17	2	73.91	40.0
2016-17	25	1	23	1	162.04	---	15	---	65.22	---
2017-18	24	3	23	2	162.17	---	14	---	60.87	---
2018-19	31	6	27	5	165.33	166.20	20	5	74.07	100
2019-20	23	6	23	6	166.87	159.17	18	3	78.26	50.0

**Music: Content Knowledge—152 – 200; 137 – 151; 122 – 136; <122**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	31	1	28	1	169.04	---	24	---	85.71	---
2017-18	21	3	20	2	171.10	---	18	---	90.00	---
2018-19	23	2	23	2	170.91	---	22	---	95.65	---
2019-20	13	1	13	1	170.62	---	11	---	84.62	---

**\*Theatre—148 – 200; 133 – 147; 118 – 132; <118**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2017-18	3	---	3	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2018-19	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2019-20	2	---	2	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2020-21*	2	1	2	1		---		---		---

\*For this table, the year 2020-21 (which—as of this writing—is not yet completed) is included, to provide further information.

**Teaching Reading—159 -200; 143 – 158; 127 – 142; <127**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	56	---	56	---	174.23	---	53	---	94.64	---
2016-17	33	2	33	2	174.12	---	30	---	90.91	---
2017-18	33	---	33	---	174.88	---	30	---	90.91	---
2018-19	44	---	44	---	174.34	---	41	---	93.18	---
2019-20	25	---	25	---	179.20	---	25	---	100	---

**\*Special Education: Core Knowledge and Applications—159 – 200; 143 – 158; 127 – 142; <127**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	53	---	53	---	175.51	---	51	---	96.23	---
2017-18	45	---	45	---	175.96	---	44	---	97.78	---
2018-19	47	11	47	11	174.74	172.82	46	10	97.87	90.91
2019-20	53	14	53	14	176.15	174.64	49	13	92.45	92.86
2020-21*	34	6	33	6	175.76	173.67	31	6	93.94	100

\*For this table, the year 2020-21 (which—as of this writing—is not yet completed) is included, to provide further information.

**\*Library Media Specialist—150 – 200; 135 – 149; 120 – 134; <120**

Year	# Exams		# Individuals		Mean Score		#Passing		% Passing	
	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW	State	UMW
2015-16	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2016-17	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2017-18	1	---	1	---	---	---	---	---	---	---
2018-19	44	10	44	10	168.11	164.20	43	10	97.73	100
2019-20	42	4	42	4	168.48	---	41	---	97.62	---
2020-21*	17	6	16	5	164.06	162.80	15	4	93.75	80

\*For this table, the year 2020-21 (which—as of this writing—is not yet completed) is included, to provide further information.

**EPP Reflections on Results:**

- For many of the tests, the pass rates are very good. No concern is expressed
- For mathematics, there is concern with the UMW pass rates, but the N is so small, it is hard to make conclusions about the program, even with five years of data. It was also noted that there is a similar concern at the state level, regarding pass rates for the math Praxis.
- For elementary education, there was considerable concern expressed by the faculty.
- Important note, especially for elementary education: There are a number of re-takes for the elementary education Praxis. The data reveal this quite clearly. Thus, if re-takes were factored out of the data, the “pass rate for elementary education” would actually be higher than what is represented here.
- We now have a number of post-baccalaureate students in the EPP, who are seeking the post-bacc certificate. They are taking everything BUT the elementary education Praxis. (This is because we don’t offer a post-bacc certificate in elementary education.) Thus, we have a more mature population of students who are taking the Praxis—a population perhaps more likely to succeed on such a test—in many of these categories, except for elementary education.
- Members of the Early Childhood Education faculty noted that their curriculum is designed with the Praxis more “in mind,” than the elementary education program is. Furthermore, the elementary education Praxis is more comprehensive and challenging exam than is the ECE exam.

### Decisions/Next Steps:

- The Praxis Working Group (PWG), is addressing concerns regarding the math Praxis. The PWG is a statewide group, composed of representatives from the Montana Office of Public Instruction (OPI) and licensure officers from all of Montana's EPPs, advised by a representative of Educational Testing Service (ETS), which produces the Praxis Subject Assessments. The UMW Director of Student Teaching, Field Experience, and Licensure serves on the PWG.
- Students need to be coached better, regarding their awareness of and preparation for the Praxis exam.
- The above can be accomplished in EDU 201 *Introduction to Education with Field Experience*, which all EPP students must take.
- Students wait to take the Praxis until after they complete their student teaching; again, coaching to be more proactive, is a good step to address this problem.
- We can/should help students to study and better prepare for the Praxis:
  - Praxis study groups could be organized within the Education Club
  - Work with the UMW library to make sure that Praxis study resources are available
  - Possibility: Use work study students as study group leaders of Praxis study groups. (Thus, the leaders would be compensated for this work.)