Fields of Opportunities

STATE OF IOWA

TERRY BRANSTAD, GOVERNOR
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DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION
JASON E. GLASS, DIRECTOR

DATE: December 21, 2012

TO: Education Stakeholders, Simpson College

FROM: Jason E. Glass, Director – Iowa Department of Education

SUBJECT: Exemption to Art and English Content Assessment

On September 18, 2012, I sent out a memorandum describing new Praxis II testing requirements Iowa will have in place as of January 1, 2013. These testing requirements are in both pedagogy and content and are a new condition of completion of a practitioner preparation program in the state and the result of education reform legislation passed in the 2012 legislative session.

One clear goal we put in place at the Department was to make the testing system for teacher candidates as simple as possible and to limit the number of assessments to one in pedagogy and one in content for each candidate.

Recently, Simpson College faculty members have made us aware that four candidates in the MAT teacher preparation program have already taken a Praxis II content test as a requirement of Simpson program entrance. One Art Education candidate took the Praxis 0134 Art: Content Knowledge. Iowa requires Praxis 0135 Art: Content and Analysis for Art Education candidates. Three English/LA candidates took the Praxis 0041 English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content Knowledge test. Iowa requires Praxis 0044 English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content and Analysis.

In recognition that MAT students at Simpson College have already taken a content test, even when not required by statute, and to minimize burden on teacher candidates, I am authorizing an exemption to allow Simpson College MAT students graduating after January 1, 2013 to substitute:

- Praxis 0134 Art: Content Knowledge for Praxis 0135 Art: Content and Analysis.
- Praxis 0041 English Language, Literature, and Composition Content Knowledge test for Praxis 0044 English Language, Literature, and Composition: Content and Analysis.

Simpson students must achieve the required score above the 25th percentile for the substituted test. The required score for Praxis 0134 Art: Content Knowledge is 157. The

required score for Praxis 0041 English Language, Literature, and Composition Content Knowledge is 163.

This exemption is authorized only for the four Simpson College students who have already taken the exempted tests, and will expire on June 30, 2015. Please note that the requirement to take the appropriate grade level pedagogy test (Praxis Principles of Learning and Teaching) and achieve the required passing score remains in effect for these students.

We appreciate the opportunity to be of service in offering this flexibility and believe that it meets the intent of the statute while also honoring plans and work that have already been in place.

On behalf of the Iowa Department of Education, thank you for your dedication and service to Iowa's students and schools.