

Teacher Education Appeals

Unit Operations Change

When an Interim Director of Assessment for the University of Tennessee at Martin, Teacher Education Program was hired in August 2007, he was given the task of chairing the appeals committee. In the past (before school year 2007-2008) [appeals](#) were almost automatic if a student had taken the Praxis I/PPST twice without passing all parts as long as he/she met the GPA and interview [requirements](#).

In lieu of waving the Praxis I requirement, the appeals committee began having students take portions of the Praxis II needed for licensure and that candidates were prepared to take based on completed coursework. For example, if a K-6 major had completed Reading 438 successfully and not passed all portions of the Praxis I, the candidate would take Reading Across the Curriculum: Elementary. If that student obtained passing scores on the Praxis II test, then the Praxis I test was waived. What the appeals committee tried to reinforce was that high stakes testing would be a part of teacher education requirements either for admission or licensure. Waiving a testing requirement did not seem in the best interest of the program or the candidates. Even though UTM's TEP program has seen an increase in the number of appeals denied, the testing requirement has not been minimalized.

Another change the committee made was not allowing appeals for the new 2.75 GPA requirement unless it was mathematically possible for a candidate to raise his/her GPA to the required 2.75 within one semester. This change resulted in an increased number of candidates "not eligible" for an appeal.