Missouri Content Assessment (MOCA)

Explanation

The Praxis content exam was required for certification until 2014. In 2015, the Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) developed a Missouri-specific content certification exam to align with the [Missouri Learning Standards (MLS)](). The [Missouri Content Assessment (MOCA)]() is one of two exams required for initial teaching certification in Missouri. The MOCA measures a candidate's content proficiency in the field in which she is seeking certification. The School of Education (SOE) monitors MOCA scores via a yearly testing window that runs from September 1-August 31.

The MOCA was developed using a several step process starting with framework development and running through field testing--including educator advisory and bias review. The MOCA development process conformed to the *Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing* (2014) and, as such, has passed through a variety of reliability and validity studies. More detailed technical information is linked in the folder found [here]().

Tagging

All MOCA data presented below is tagged to…

- InTASC - Content
- CAEP 1.1, 1.3, 1.4

Data Table Key

This document presents candidate Praxis scores in the testing window September 1, 2013-August 31, 2014. The scores reported in this document are the average percent correct that candidates scored during the testing window. The School of Education' scores are benchmarked against the average percent correct for all candidates in Missouri. This document also summarizes two cycles of

MOCA scores: September 1, 2014-August 31, 2015 and September 1, 2015-August 31, 2016. The passing score for all MOCA exams is 220 on a 100-300 point scale. When we transitioned from Praxis to Missouri, the School of Education re-evaluated how we report this data. As such, you will notice that score reporting changes from 2014 to 2015. The MOCA scores are reported by exam score average, pass rate, and range of scores where applicable. Like the Praxis, these scores are benchmarked against the score reports for all candidates in Missouri.

Data Table

Exam	2014	2015	2016
Early Childhood Education	75 (SLU)(N=5) (test 0021) 76 (MO) 80 (SLU) (N=15) (test 5021) 77 (MO)	243 (SLU) (N=5) 100% Score range: 220-267 244 (MO) 94%	252 (SLU) (N=7) 100% Score range: 220-273 240 (MO) 90%
Early Childhood Special Education	79 (SLU) (N=7) 76 (MO)	273 (SLU) (N=1) 100% Score range: 273 (MO) 87%	234 (SLU) (N=3) 67% Score range: 193-260 (MO) 91%
Elementary	77 (SLU) (N=7) (test 0011) 77 (MO) 78 (SLU) (N=38) (test 5011) 77 (MO)	244 (SLU) (N=10) 80% Score range: 184-294 (MO) 90%	240 (SLU) (N=18) 94% Score range: 202-294 (MO) 91%
Mild/Moderate Cross Categorical Special Education	77 (SLU) (N=15) 75 (MO)	257 (SLU) (N=4) 100% Score range: 251-282 (MO) 90%	259 (SLU) (N=8) 100% Score range: 232-285 (MO) 94%
Middle School Language Arts	81 (SLU) (N=11) 77 (MO)	219 (SLU) (N=2) 50% Score range: 214-223 (MO) 85%	259 (SLU) (N=6) 100% Score range: 223-291 (MO) 85%

Middle School Mathematics	83 (SLU) (N=12) 63 (MO)	230 (SLU) (N=2) 67% Score range: 199-261 (MO) 57%	227 (SLU) (N=8) 88% Score range: 159-278 (MO) 68%
Middle School Social Sciences	76 (SLU) (n=7) 66 (MO)	237 (SLU) (N=4) 75% Score range: 199-285 225 (MO) 71%	241 (SLU) (N=5) 80% Score range: 210-283 (MO) 73%
Middle School Science	71 (SLU) (N=6) 64 (MO)	248 (SLU) (N=3) 100% Score range: 232-269 225 (MO) 71%	257(SLU) (N=3) 100% Score range: 241-273 (MO) 73%
English	72 (SLU) (N=6) 74 (MO)	257 (SLU) (N=1) 100% Score range: 257 228 (MO) 75%	232 (SLU) (N=3) 67% Score range: 217-249 (MO) 81%
Mathematics	72 (SLU) (N=11) 65 (MO)	220 (SLU) (N=2) 50% Score range: 202-238 (MO) 39%	226 (SLU) (N=5) 40% Score range: 188-264 (MO) 62%
Social Sciences	71 (SLU) (N=6) 64 (MO)	236 (SLU) (N=1) 100% Score range: 236 (MO) 77%	251 (SLU) (N=5) 100% Score range: 209-293 (MO) 83%
Biology	-------------	253 (SLU) (N=1) 100% Score range: 253 (MO) 63%	--------------
World Languages Spanish + French	79 (SLU) (N=11) 69 (MO)	225(SLU) (N=3) 67% Score range: 194- 257 (MO) 77%	243 (SLU) (N=2) 100% Score range: 224-262 (MO) 63%

Conclusion

Though several MOCA pass rates are concerning (e.g., early childhood special education from Fall 2016), it's difficult to determine a pattern for improvement because we have so few candidates take the exam during a testing window. For example, the English MOCA pass rate for Spring 2016 was 100% and only 67% in Fall 2016. With only four candidates taking the exam during those two semesters, the SOE needs more data from the MOCA to make an accurate determination about candidate content knowledge.

References

American Educational Research Association, American Psychological Association, & National Council on Measurement in Education. (2014). *Standards for educational and psychological testing*. Produced by the Joint Committee on Standards for Educational and Psychological Testing.