

# Analyzing Teacher Candidates' Assessments

## Summary

The goal for the 2019 Assessment Grant titled, *Analyzing Teacher Candidate's Assessments* was to better understand content areas of the Missouri Content Assessment (MoCA) that are the most problematic for elementary teacher candidates and make plans to provide support. The Elementary Program Faculty met in May 2019 to analyze the MoCA data from the last four years. Faculty were split into teams for this analysis. They had both the reports in both hard copy and digital formats.

From 2014-Spring 2018, there were 590 Elementary teacher candidates who took the four content Missouri Content Assessment (MoCA) assessment across all campuses.

Of those **364 passed on the first try (62%)**, with 226 (38%) having to retake some portion of the assessment. Table 8 shows the number of teacher candidates' attempts and percentages for the Springfield campus.

Table 1

### *Teacher Candidate Retake Attempts and Percentages*

Attempts			
2	3	4	More than 5
112	60	28	26
19%	10%	5%	4.4%

The Elementary Program faculty analyzed the data creating a content comparison to see which assessments were the most difficult.

Table 2

Teacher Candidate Retake Attempts by Content

	Attempts					Still haven't passed
	1	2	3	4	5	
ELA	80%	12%	4%	1.3%	0	5 %
Math	81%	9%	3%	2%	<1%%	4%
Science <i>This group didn't compute percentages</i>	253	32	12	4	2	26
Social Studies	49%	7%	3%	2%	<1%	5%

The faculty also analyzed survey data from teacher candidates regarding their MoCA experience. Specifically, the faculty focused on Social Studies. Key themes are provided here in Table 3.

Table 3

Most common responses	Other Responses
All of it was difficult	Arc of world history
Dates of events	Historic figures
Extremely broad range	Most difficult subject by far
No way to study, you know it or don't	Random stuff
More global than expected	Econ
	Immigration from 1400s

The Outreach Office shared their survey instrument for the teacher candidates' at the other campuses and their Blackboard resource for the MoCA. The Elementary Program faculty are going to evaluate the survey and begin surveying the students. Teacher candidates who hadn't passed the MoCA were added to the Blackboard resource as well as those now enrolled in the methods semester. The Elementary Faculty will work to provide additional resources for this site in the coming months. The Social Studies faculty are planning additional supports within their methods course and planning an additional study session. The faculty will collect survey information in December 2019.

It is important to note that Missouri Department of Elementary and Secondary Education (DESE) is currently changing the MoCA to be more about pedagogy and assessment.

Submitted by Dr. Stefanie Livers