

Section 4: Candidate Preparation

Political Science (CD): Secondary Major and Minor; Elementary Minor

A. Perceptions of Preparation

Postponed until 2005-2010

UDM is investigating a variety of assessment systems and computer programs to facilitate the continuous collection of such candidate perceptions.

B. Content

MTTC pass rates for UDM Political Science teacher certification candidates from January 1998 to October 2004 are listed in Table 1 following this explanation. The scores include scores from students who have taken the test more than once before passing, as well as data from students who send scores and are not enrolled in UDM.

The majority of teacher certification candidates are post-degree students who possess an undergraduate degree with a Political Science major or minor and are enrolled in a DM Teacher Education program to become certified teachers. Most of these students did not complete their undergraduate course work at UDM; many have changed careers and completed their course work up to twenty years ago. As long as these non-traditional, transfer students meet UDM requirements for admission to UDM and to the Education program of a 2.5 overall GPA, a 2.7 in their major and/or minor for which they are seeking certification, and a pass score on the Basic Skills test, they may begin taking Education courses prior to sitting for the MTTC Content Test. The Education Department is currently analyzing its Pass Rates data to determine if the rate is a result of policy and/or a result of course content taught at UDM. For example, if UDM graduates have a significantly higher pass rate than those who have transferred to UDM, then the Department must consider changing its admission policies about when students are admitted to Education in relation to passing the MTTC. If no significant difference is discovered, then the Departments' on-going review of their academic course content, pedagogy, and instructional methods must be investigated from that perspective and appropriate adjustments made. The Political Science and Education faculty members will continue to address the MTTC pass rate for our candidates.

To address the needs of students seeking teacher certification, the Education faculty members work individually with the candidates to improve their scores in a variety of ways. They help candidates analyze the MTTC results and suggest ways to study for the test. They encourage candidates to engage a tutor and/or to talk/study with professors in the Political Science Department. Tutors are also available through the Learning center and University Academic Services. Education instructors refer candidates to standard test taking practice books and to web sites which provide review of Political Science content. If the candidate's problem deals with passing the basic skills test, which may happen with career changers who are post-degree and masters students, the candidates use the UDM Learning Center that deals with basic skills of writing, math, reading, and test taking to enhance their knowledge and skills. Two developmental Mathematics courses (MTH 080 Basic Mathematics and MTH 095 Elementary Algebra) are available to students struggling in that area. In 2005, this course will be offered from the University Academic Services (UAS) and taught by instructors specializing in developmental teaching. Cyclical review of our candidates' performance in their MTTC special areas indicate an on-going need for review of program design and for strategies to assist students in successfully taking the specialty area tests.

**Table 1: Political Science MTTC Content Test Passing Rate
From October, 1998 through July 2004**

Test Date	Failed	Passed	Sum	Passing Rate %	
10/03/98	1	1	2	50%	
1/09/99	0	2	2	100%	
4/17/99	1	0	1	0%	
7/17/99	1		1	0%	1998/99 Pass Rate: 50.0%
10/2/99	1	0	1	0%	
1/08/00	1	1	2	50.0%	
4/15/00	0	1	1	100.0%	
7/15/00	1	2	3	66%	1999/00 Pass Rate: 57%
10/07/00	2	0	2	0%	
1/13/01	3	0	3	0%	
4/21/01	2	1	3	33%	
7/14/01	1	1	2	50.0%	2000/01 Pass Rate: 20.0%
10/6/01	1	0	1	0%	
1/12/02	2	0	2	0%	
4/20/02	4	0	4	0%	
7/13/02	2	0	2	0%	2001/02 Pass Rate: 0%
10/05/02	1	1	2	50.0%	
1/11/03	1	0	1	0%	
4/12/03	1	1	2	50%	
7/12/03	5	2	7	28%	2002/03 Pass Rate 33%
10/18/03	1	1	2	50%	
1/10/04	2	2	4	50%	
4/03/04	1	1	2	50%	
7/10/04	1	1	1	100%	2003/04 Pass Rate: 56%

C. Pedagogy

Postponed until 2005-2010

UDM is investigating a variety of assessment systems and computer programs to facilitate the continuous evaluation of pedagogy.

D. Cooperating Teacher/Mentor Perceptions

Postponed until 2005-2010

UDM is investigating a variety of assessment systems and computer programs to facilitate the continuous collection of cooperating teacher/mentor perceptions.

E. Content-Area Faculty Perceptions

Postponed until 2005-2010

UDM is investigating a variety of assessment and computer programs to facilitate the continuous collection of content-area faculty perceptions