

Faculty Participation in Praxis Analysis

Public university faculty are involved in three activities associated with implementation of the PRAXIS exams for teacher certification: 1) ETS and DOE test item analysis process, 2) taking the PRAXIS exams, and 3) using the ETS test study guides for curriculum analysis.

University faculty have been involved in the PRAXIS test item analysis along with K-12 teachers. As part of this process, ETS requires that all participants sign a statement to maintain confidentiality of all test items. Furthermore, each time the test is administered ETS changes the format so that different questions are being asked within the domains of knowledge. Any faculty member who takes a PRAXIS exam under this *EveryTeacher* activity signs an additional confidentiality statement.

Faculty are being provided the opportunity to take the examinations because most of them have no familiarity with the tests, especially in the content areas. This practice is recognized by both NCATE and ETS, the testing company. It is considered good professional development and informs faculty analysis of curriculum. The purpose is to acquaint faculty with the domains of knowledge being tested so that we can offer students the opportunity to learn what they need to know in order to teach in South Dakota.

In addition, campuses are taking advantage of the preparation resources that ETS provides and encourages individuals and universities to use. All of the available study guides and associated materials have been purchased for each campus so that instructors can better integrate the domains of knowledge into their courses.

As part of the public university implementation, faculty who have taken the PRAXIS examinations and participated in the ETS test item analysis process will be asked to participate in system-wide curriculum analysis discussions.

In summary, the practice of faculty taking the PRAXIS examinations is ethical and recognized by both the testing company and the primary accrediting agency for teacher education. In addition, faculty in many fields requiring certification or licensure exams must have taken and passed the examination in order to be qualified for their positions.