

Praxis I Enhancement Program (PEP)

Statement of the Problem:

Between 2005 and 2009, Educational Testing Services reported data on national test taker performance outcomes on the Praxis I examination. Emergent from these data was an achievement gap between Black First Time Test Takers (FTTT) and Caucasian First Time Test Takers (FTTT). These data are as follows:

First-Time Test Takers	Reading Praxis I	Writing Praxis I	Math Praxis I
Black FTTT	40.7%	44.2%	36.8%
Caucasian FTTT	81.5%	79.5%	78.2%

Because of these data, administrators and faculty in the School of Education implemented a course, *CUIN 102 Introduction to Teacher Education*, that teacher education majors were required to take. This course was a part of all teacher education curricula prior to the 2010-11 academic year when the course was removed from the various teacher education academic degree programs. The decision to remove the course transpired when Dr. Kathy Sullivan presented the “Proposed Revision of the Teacher Education Approval Process” in January 2008; this document articulated 10 proposed changes to teacher education programs across the state of North Carolina. One of these changes stated the following: “Replace Praxis I with 21st Century assessments of basic skills (communication, mathematical literacy, scientific literacy) as part of the electronic evidences.” Thus, students who entered the teacher education major between the 2010-11 academic year and 2012-13 academic year did not enroll in the CUIN 102 Introduction to Teacher Education course.

Over the last two academic years, 2010-2011 and 2011-2012, the number of student test takers that attempted Praxis I decreased tremendously. With fewer students taking the test, currently there are a smaller number of students in the teacher education pipeline to gain formal admission into the Teacher Education Program. In many cases, students have been unable to smoothly move from Transition Point II to Transition Point III when students have met all other specialty area program requirements. As a result of the decreased number of test takers, the Curriculum and Instruction (CUIN) 102 class was reinstated in the Fall of 2012. The CUIN 102 class does not guarantee an increase in the percentage of students who pass the test. However, it does provide a solution for increasing the number of test takers. Additionally, there is a large number of students that remain in Professional Learning Community (PLC) II because they have not attempted to take the Praxis I tests. To increase the percentage of students who

successfully pass Praxis I, it is imperative that the School of Education allocate resources to their existing model that will provide students with consistent and transparent services weekly.

In a recent Teacher Education Council (TEC) meeting, it was reported that less than 60 teacher education majors' campus wide attempted Praxis I during the 2011-2012 academic year. However, there are more than 200 students in PLC I and II, thus less than 30% of our teacher education majors are attempting Praxis I. Many students are not confident that they will pass Praxis I, so they avoid taking the tests. Unfortunately, poor planning in enforcing policies and procedures designed to prevent this from happening must be changed to improve our test completion.

A combination of online resource with Graduate Assistants, Undergraduate Tutors, and the CUIIN Instructors will provide students with a bank of test questions related to Praxis I. On another spectrum face to face explanations are not in-depth when the online resource doesn't provide enough in-depth explanation for certain answer choices.

This proposal below attempts to address the dire need to increase the number of students taking and passing Praxis I thus, aiding in the matriculation of students at North Carolina A&T State University's Teacher Education Program. In this document you will find the following: a) Statement of the Problem, b) Objective, c) Resources needed, d) Justification, e) measurements and f) Budget proposal.

Objective:

The Praxis Committee is proposing adding multiple sections of CUIIN 102 for Praxis I starting in the **Spring of 2013**. Individual(s) to teach these classes have yet to be identified. The Chairperson for the Department of Curriculum and Instruction would be the ideal person to identify appropriate teacher(s) for these proposed classes. This would require funding for the faculty member who would be required to take on this additional responsibility or hiring of an adjunct faculty member to assume the responsibility.

Short term (Spring 2013)

- Create second sections of CUIIN 102. The current section has approximately 60 students enrolled. Therefore, we need to hire a second instructor to teach the course.
- Secure two graduate assistants (GA's) and two undergraduate student tutors to provide one on one assistance to students. These students will work with the student in the computer lab to provide support and assistance. The two undergraduate student tutors will be students who have successfully passed Praxis I. The Retention Coordinator will oversee the graduate assistants and undergraduate student tutors.

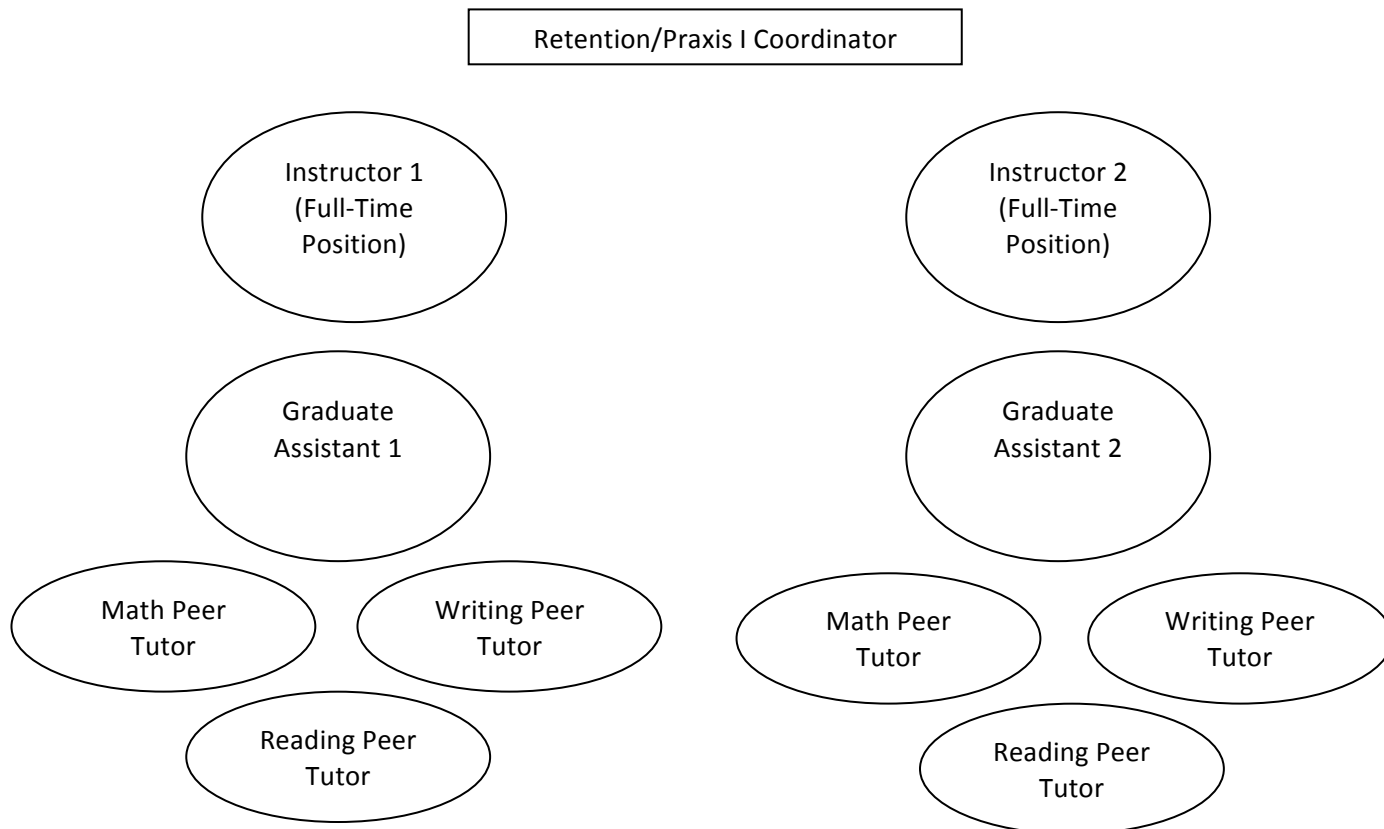
- Reserve the computer lab for two days each week. Students enrolled in the CUIN 102 class will be required to attend the lab for a minimum of two hours each week of the semester.
- The graduate assistants and the instructor would have specific time each week where they would be set up in the computer lab (Proctor 214).
- Establish a phone tree support network. Program Coordinators and select faculty would contact students and encourage them to take Praxis I and monitor their progress.

Long term (Fall 2013 and forward)

- Hire three instructors with expertise in reading, writing, and mathematics which represent the three sections of Praxis I.
- Establish a Praxis Teacher Education Resource Center as a learning center where teacher education majors can go to receive high quality assistance in preparing for Praxis I. The Center will house 20 computers loaded with Study Island or Plato. ETS practice materials, and other supportive resources will be provided.
- Students in the CUIN 102 class will be required to attend the Praxis Teacher Education Resource Center for a minimum of two hours per week. In addition, those students not in the class would have the opportunity to come to the Center to receive additional support for Praxis I.

Unfortunately, the computer lab in Proctor Hall (214) is not always available for use because other classes are taught in the lab. Having a Praxis Teacher Education Center would provide students with a consistent place to attend at any designated time to receive Praxis assistance.

The "Ideal" CUIN 102 Praxis I Instructional Model



Resources Needed:

In order for students to have success, students must have adequate practice with the different types of concepts and problems that will appear on Praxis I. This will require the purchase of learning resources tools such as PLATO or Study Island.

Plato- provides an online resource for the PPST (Praxis I). The PPST – Praxis I tests measure teacher candidates' knowledge and skills. They measure basic skills in reading, writing, and mathematics. The tests are composed of multiple-choice questions and an essay question on the writing test. In addition to providing test practice, learners are given a prescription of PLATO® Learning's rigorous online curriculum to fill learning gaps, resulting in improved real test success. PLATO simulated tests provide an experience that is closely related to the actual test experience because Education Testing Systems developed the content/test.

These prescriptive and practice tests were developed by ETS (Educational Testing Services) and address:

- Reading
- Writing (Multiple Choice and 1 Essay Item for PPST-Praxis I / no essay item for ParaPro)
- Mathematics

Measurement:

The immediate overall goal is to see a 50% increase in the number of students who take the exam by May of 2013. The process will be monitored by the Praxis I Coordinator and the instructor of the CUIIN 102 course.

Long term (2013): we will track the progress of our student scores in 2012-2013 and push for a 5% increase in the number of students who pass the Praxis I test in the 2013-2014 academic year.

Additionally, we will aim to have a minimum of 80% of our teacher education students to take the exam prior to the close of the students' first semester of his/her freshman year (or before completing 15 credit hours).

The overall intent of this Praxis I Emporium Model is to raise the passing Praxis I rate for first-time test takers in the teacher education program to a minimum of 80%. To ensure the Praxis I Emporium achieves this overarching goal, the project will adhere to the following goals:

- To create a meeting space for students that is accessible for practice opportunities during specified periods of the day throughout the week.
- To provide students with diversified resources that strengthen their knowledge and skill in mathematics, reading, and writing.
- To create a culture of peer support as a means to encourage students preparing for the Praxis I examination.

Proposed Budget:

Option #1: PLATO Praxis I Preparation Solution (12-Month Subscription)		
DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	EXTENDED COST
PLATO <i>Praxis I Preparation Solution + Training Package</i>	24	\$14,700.00
Option #2: PLATO Praxis I Prep Solution (24-Month Subscription + 28% Promotional Discount*)		
DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	EXTENDED COST
PLATO <i>Praxis I Prep Solution + Training (24-Month Subscription)</i>	24	\$21,300.00
Option #3: PLATO Praxis I Prep Solution (36-Month Subscription + 40% Promotional Discount*)		
DESCRIPTION	QUANTITY	EXTENDED COST
PLATO <i>Praxis I Prep Solution + Training (36-Month Subscription)</i>	24	\$26,628.00
NOTES: PLATO licensing enables an unlimited number of learners to utilize the PLATO account. The chosen license quantity simply determines how many learners can be logged into PLATO at the same time.		
Option #2 and Option #3 include limited time promotional pricing that will be honored if PLATO receives our order commitment by: January 31, 2013		

* Discounted multi-year subscription options require PO and upfront payment for full term amount.

PRAXIS I Graduate Assistants, Undergraduates and Total Cost /per semester

Spring 2013	Quantity	Cost per semester	# of semesters per/yr	Total
Student (GA's)	3	\$5,100.00	1 semester	\$15,300.00
Student (undgrad)	3	\$3,000.00	1 semester	\$9,000.00
Books	6	\$67.74	1 semester	\$203.34
Pencils(Brand Wood)	2	\$12.78		\$12.78
Pens	4	\$21.98		\$43.96
Dry Erase Marker Kit	6	\$21.58		\$64.74
Plato	24 licenses			\$14,700.00
			Total	\$39,324.82

Adding Instructor Cost (Fall 2013 and each semester moving forward)

Fall 2013	Quantity	Cost per semester	# of semesters per/yr	Total
Instructor(s)	2	\$9,000.00	1 semester	\$ 18,000.00
Student (GA's)	2	\$5,100.00	1 semester	\$10,200.00
Student (undgrad)	3	\$3,000.00	1 semester	\$9,000.00
Books	6	\$67.74		\$203.34
Pencils(Brand Wood)	2	\$12.78		\$12.78
Pens	4	\$21.98		\$43.96
Dry Erase Marker Kit	6	\$21.58		\$64.74
Plato	24 licenses			\$14,700.00
			Total	\$52,224.82