

Library Science MLS - Assessment  
Plan Summary

Library Science MLS

Master Texas Educator Standards For School Librarians

Goal Description:

Candidate knowledge and skills to meet Texas Educator Standards

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Candidate Knowledge, Skills, And Dispositions

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will demonstrate their knowledge, skills, and dispositions by successfully completing the TExES School Librarian (150) test that is designed to assess examinees according to the prescribed domains that include the following: Domain I - Teaching, Learning, and the School Library Environment; Domain II - Program Management, Leadership, and Connections to the Community; and Domain III - Librarianship, Information Science, and Technology.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

TExES

Indicator Description:

All candidates seeking school librarian certification must take the TExES (Texas Examination of Educator Standards) for school librarians. This exam directly corresponds to the state content competencies that are designed to measure the candidates' level of mastery as it relates to the field. Results of candidate scores on the TExES test for school librarians determine the pass rate for each testing period.

Criterion Description:

Candidates will pass the TExES Exam for School Librarian, and 80% of candidates will succeed upon their first effort. A scaled score of 240 is required for passing. The overall pass rate, with those who have to retake the exam, will exceed 90% of candidates.

Findings Description:

Library Science candidates who completed the program during the 2016-2017 academic year contributed to the following findings:

82% of the candidates were successful in passing the TExES certification exam on their first attempt. This is above the criterion of 80%. This is up from 77% in the pervious academic year.

87% of the candidates were successful in passing the TExES certification exam for the 2016-2017 academic year. This is greater than the previous academic year of 81%.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

Action for TExES

Action Description:

Candidates will pass the TExES Exam for School Librarian, and 90% of candidates will succeed upon their first effort. A scaled score of 240 is required for passing. The overall pass rate, with those who have to retake the exam, will exceed 100% of candidates.

Portfolio Demonstrating Mastery Of Standards

Goal Description:

Library science candidates prepare a final assessment portfolio for the MLS to demonstrate mastery and competence standards adopted by the field.

RELATED ITEMS/ELEMENTS -----

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 1

Candidate Preparedness

Learning Objective Description:

Candidates will demonstrate mastery of their knowledge, skills, and dispositions gained in the Library Science program on the final assessment of portfolio. The portfolio is governed by the *ALA/AASL Standards for Initial Preparation of School Librarians (2010)*. The five standards include: Standard 1 - Teaching for Learning; Standard 2 - Literacy and Reading; Standard 3 - Information and Knowledge; Standard 4 - Advocacy and Leadership; and Standard 5 - Program Management and Administration.

RELATED ITEM LEVEL 2

## Final Assessment Portfolio

### Indicator Description:

Every graduate program requires a final product for its course of study. The Department of Library Science has determined that the electronic portfolio is currently the best method of providing evidence that the candidate is prepared for the world of school librarianship. The electronic portfolio is designed for candidates to demonstrate through artifacts and reflection their completion and mastery of the American Association of School Librarians (AASL) and National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) Standards.

The candidate must meet acceptable or target evaluations of their final assessment portfolio. Professors review the portfolios using rubrics developed by faculty for this purpose.

### Criterion Description:

All candidates will obtain an assessment of either acceptable or target as indicated by department rubrics on the final portfolio. Since candidates met the desired ratio of 30% Acceptable and 70% Target, the new percentages will be 20% Acceptable and 80% Target.

### Findings Description:

For 2016-2017 academic year, the evaluation criteria changed mid-year. Beginning in Spring 2017, candidates were evaluated using the titles Met and Exceeds Expectations, which replaced Acceptable and Target. 47% of the candidates scored Met and 47% of the candidates scored Exceeds Expectations. The criterion was not met.

#### RELATED ITEM LEVEL 3

### Action for Final Assessment Portfolio

#### Action Description:

Since candidates did not meet the desired ratio of 20% Met and 80% Exceeds Expectations, the percentages will remain the same.

## Update to Previous Cycle's Plan for Continuous Improvement

### Previous Cycle's Plan For Continuous Improvement (Do Not Modify):

For mastery of Texas Educator Standards for School Librarians, faculty members will administer the preparation and pretest sessions. A practice test has been added as a benchmark for students mid-way through the library science program to help candidates prepare for the certification examination.

In addition, faculty members will monitor coursework, benchmark performance, and curriculum in support of candidate learning. New rubrics for the benchmarks were scheduled to be implemented in Spring 2017 to more closely align with national accreditation standards that changed when NCATE became a subsidiary of CAEP.

### Update of Progress to the Previous Cycle's PCI:

For mastery of Texas Educator Standards for School Librarians, faculty members administered the preparation and pretest sessions. The practice test was added to LSSL 5334 and the pretest to LSSL 5337 as benchmarks for candidates as they progress through the library science program in preparation for the certification examination.

In addition, faculty members monitored coursework, benchmark performances, and curriculum in support of candidate learning. New rubrics for the benchmarks were implemented in Spring 2017 to more closely align with national accreditation standards that changed when NCATE became a subsidiary of CAEP. As a result, candidates' preparedness for the certification exam has improved.

## New Plan for Continuous Improvement

### Closing Summary:

Since the library science program is moving towards the new CAEP standards for accreditation (formerly NCATE), faculty members updated the rubrics for assessing the Final Assessment Portfolio to match the CAEP requirements during the 2016-2017 academic year. This led to a change in scoring and student preparation. From the findings, candidates did not meet the desired ratio of 20% Met and 80% Exceeds Expectations. Faculty members will continue to support candidates using benchmarks established to meet the ALA/AASL Standards for the Initial Preparation of School Librarians (2010) and the Texas Education Administrative Code Title 19, Part 7, Chapter 239, Subchapter B, Rule §239.55. So, the criterion will remain the same for 2017-2018.

The Texas Education Agency in the near future will require a cohort of candidates to have a combined pass rate of 90% on the state's certification exam. In order to prepare for that requirement, the library science program will continue to administer practice test sessions that support candidate preparation for the certification exam. Since the criterion were met for 2016-2017, the new criterion set at 90% pass rate for the initial attempt and an overall 100% pass rate for 2017-2018.