

EASTERN KENTUCKY UNIVERSITY

College of Education and Applied Human Sciences

2025 Impact Study

Advanced Programs



INTRODUCTION

EKU's Educator Preparation Program (EPP) evaluates the professional competency of its advanced completers at the point of program completion to ensure they meet state and institutional standards for entry into the teaching profession. This introduction provides general context by defining key terms, explaining cohort selection, and outlining the common data sources and tools used in the analysis.

Advanced completers are those who completed a post-baccalaureate or graduate-level program through the EPP. Cohorts are selected to represent completers approximately two and four years after program completion, allowing enough experience to recognize what aspects of their preparation were most effective and where gaps remain. The EPP identifies cohorts using the Kentucky Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) Completer and Enrollment Report, Graduate Assignment and Certification Inquiry (GACI), and Program Completers Employment Report. For this cycle, the 2019–2020 and 2021–2022 completer cohorts are included.

The Impact Study Team coordinates data collection and analysis in collaboration with faculty, staff, and district partners. These findings provide insight into the effectiveness of the EPP and reinforce its ongoing commitment to data-informed decision-making and continuous improvement.

MEASURE 3: CANDIDATE COMPETENCY AT PROGRAM COMPLETION

The EPP triangulates multiple data sources to determine candidate competency upon program completion of an advanced licensure program. Data sources include candidate completion data, Praxis scores, and candidate dispositional data.

The EPP requires that Dispositions are assessed for all candidates in all certification areas. These are completed by course instructors. Additionally, any faculty or advisor can complete a Disposition at any time if they deem it necessary. The major topics of dispositional scoring are Advocacy for Students, Commitment to Positive Classroom Culture, Commitment to Student Growth, Communication and Collaboration, Critical Thinking, Social Contexts, Reflective Practice, and Professionalism and Ethical Decision Making. For each area, there are multiple statements related to the topic, and instructors determine if they strongly disagree (1.0), disagree (2.0), have no evidence to determine (3.0), agree (4.0), or strongly agree (5.0) with the statement in relation to the candidate. At the culmination of the form are overall scoring options, which include “progresses in the program”, “does not progress”, or “progresses with a Professional Improvement Plan (PIP)”. If a student is flagged by two or more “does not progress” evaluations, they will be advised out of the program. The candidate will be given the opportunity to appeal to the Professional Education Advisory Committee (PEAC) in the event that they disagree with the advisor.

In order to successfully fulfill graduation/completion requirements, candidates must pass all key assessments across their advanced program. Key assessments, EPP-created evaluations that meet all five areas of CAEP's criteria for evaluation, strategically assess candidate progression across all indicators related to their field to ensure that all candidates can apply critical concepts and principles in their discipline and pedagogical knowledge. Candidate completion of a program means they have demonstrated competency in all areas deemed critical by their field.

In addition to these program assessments, 2024–2025 Praxis exam results further demonstrate candidate competency and readiness for their fields. Figure 1 illustrates pass rates for five advanced licensure exams. All 24 EPP candidates who took the English as a Second Language (ESOL) exam passed, and all 50 candidates who took the School Leaders Licensure Assessment (SLLA) passed—evidence of strong preparation for both ESL instruction and school leadership. The Reading Specialist pass rate, at 82% is aligned with the state's pass rate of 79%. Out of

the 142 EPP candidates represented in Figure 1, 138 passed their exam for a total pass rate of 95%. These results affirm the strengths of EPP candidates.

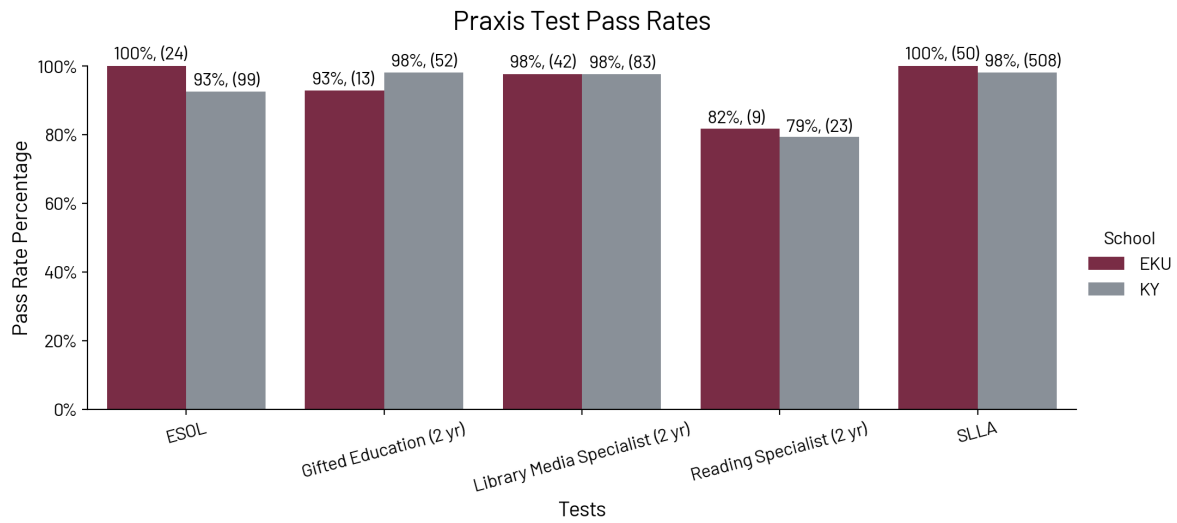


Figure 1: This figure illustrates Praxis exam pass rates for assessments taken by candidates during their completion year. The data highlights the EPP's strong performance across multiple certification areas, reinforcing the effectiveness of the EPP in ensuring candidates meet state advanced certification requirements.