

Date: May 9, 2006
To: All Candidates for Teacher Licensure
From: Jane A. Zaharias, Associate Dean
RE: Notice of Policy Changes



PLEASE READ CAREFULLY AND RETAIN FOR FUTURE REFERENCE

College of Education & Human Services continues to believe that it is in every student's best interest to have both taken and passed all required Praxis II exams prior to student teaching. School districts with openings do give preferential consideration to applicants that have already passed all needed exams when making hiring decisions. Hence, if you expect to apply for positions while student teaching, your prospects for securing a teaching contract will be **greatly** enhanced if you can guarantee that you have already met all Praxis II requirements for licensure. Nevertheless, as noted below, the College had decided to revise its Praxis II eligibility requirement for student teaching placement and also wants to ensure that students who request practicum and student teaching waivers understand how the existing portfolio requirement applies to them.

POLICY CHANGE IN PRAXIS II REQUIREMENT FOR STUDENT TEACHING

*Effective Fall Semester 2006, you must minimally have taken, **but not necessarily passed**, all Praxis II exams required for your intended field of licensure before being granted a student teaching placement.*

In making this change, many factors were considered, including the Praxis II test administration schedule set by ETS that has sometimes impeded students from retaking exams in sufficient time to allow for student teaching placement as well as the number of students who have qualified for a waiver of the Praxis II policy on the basis of having failed to pass only one required exam by a small margin.

If you intend to student teach in Fall 2006, it is assumed that you have already submitted an on-line placement application. **If not and you have previously had a placement canceled or postponed because of the Praxis II passage policy, you must contact the Office of Field Services (RT 1344, 216-687-4616) by 5:00 p.m. on Monday, May 22, 2006, to apply to student teach.** The Office of Field Services promises to make every effort to secure a fall placement for you; they cannot, however, absolutely guarantee such a placement at this late date and will definitely not entertain any further applications beyond the May 22nd deadline.

*Despite the aforementioned change in eligibility requirements for student teaching, all students—including those granted student teaching waivers—are reminded that **the College cannot legally endorse any student's application for licensure until they have passed all required Praxis II exams.***

PORTFOLIO REQUIREMENTS WHEN WAIVING PRACTICUM OR STUDENT TEACHING

Students applying for practicum or student teaching waivers must ultimately submit a professional portfolio demonstrating proficiency in all 12 outcomes that govern our teacher preparation programs. If granted, students who receive a practicum waiver are strongly urged to obtain feedback on their portfolio **prior** to student teaching. For this purpose, you should either consult with your faculty advisor or submit your portfolio to the Associate Dean for Academic Programs, Dr. Richard Hurwitz (RT 1416, 216-687-3737), who will arrange for a Checkpoint 3 assessment on your behalf.

Students who are granted student teaching waivers must submit a Checkpoint 3 assessment report which documents their having already met all Checkpoint 4 criteria by the conclusion of practicum or an acceptable professional portfolio by the last day of instruction of the semester **before** the one in which they intend to complete their program. Students who do not meet this requirement will have their student teaching waiver revoked and will necessarily have to wait until the next on-line application window to apply for placement.