

## **2007-2008 Annual Program Review Report Government 7-12**

### **I. Assessment of Candidate**

The PRAXIS test results indicate that 95% of the candidates passed the government/political science test on their first attempt. The minimum score for passing the PRAXIS exam is 600. Our students averaged 705.5. None of the interview data from the student teachers or from the principals indicate any dissatisfaction with the preparation of the government/political science candidates for the test or with their knowledge for the classroom.

During the 2008-2009 academic year the chair of political science will seek to identify the candidates from that department who are seeking teaching licensure and work with any of the candidates who appear to be weak in their knowledge of the government/political science material that may be covered on the PRAXIS test so that there will be a 100% passage rate instead of just 95%. The implications for the long-term are an examination of our course content to strengthen those areas where students preparing for the PRAXIS exam appear to be the weakest. The political science department is preparing for its five-year academic audit, so curriculum review is a major topic of discussion in departmental meetings. The curriculum review and course changes will occur during the 2008-2009 academic year.

### **II. Assessment of Program Operations**

The political science department does not conduct a systematic survey of its teacher licensure candidates. Generally the department averages only four candidates a year and many of them are students who have transferred into Austin Peay after having completed much, if not all, of their political science training elsewhere. There have not been any reports of our graduates not performing well or of any deficiency in the department's preparation of its students in the subject matter of government/political science.

The course designed for instructing our students in classroom techniques is offered in the history department. The political science faculty do not have direct input into that course, and have not tried to have input, because we are confident of the quality of that course. I am sure that the instructor for that course will examine the comment data and adjust her course accordingly, perhaps including more emphasis on such topics as classroom management and controlling the difficult child since those appear to be areas of concern for Austin Peay's student teachers.

During the 2008-2009 academic year the political science chair will seek to meet with prospective student teachers and try to identify problems in program operations and quality. Once those problems are identified, corrective action will be taken. The long term implications are that the chair needs to continually monitor the success of the student teachers so that changes may be undertaken when they appear warranted.

### **III. Assessment System**

It would be helpful for the political science department to receive more data which are specific to its students and are more detailed in nature. The comments provided from graduates and principals are of a very general nature and are not broken down by discipline. Receiving comments by and about government/political science teachers would be more helpful.

The PRAXIS test score data could also be more detailed. The current data are not broken down by test section. It would be helpful to know on which portions of the exam our students scored high and low so that our curriculum could be adjusted accordingly. Knowing that our students average 105.5 points above the minimum needed to pass appears to be a positive piece of data, but it would also be helpful to know in what national percentile a score of 705.5 falls so that we would know how our students are performing compared to students around the country.