

# Prep Resources: How to Improve Prep in this Area

## Standard 6: Elementary Content

### KEY STANDARD — Undergraduate Elementary Programs

#### Follow these steps to improve your preparation program and your score:

- ☐ **1st:** Require either individual subject tests or a test with individual subject scores in elementary content for *admission* into the program.
- ☐ **2nd:** Require prospective teacher candidates to take specific general education courses that cover the fundamentals that elementary teachers need (e.g., US History to 1877), rather than courses too narrow to give the content they will need (e.g., Age of Jefferson and Jackson). If setting this requirement is not feasible, strongly advise prospective candidates about which courses to take.
- ☐ **3rd:** Require candidates to have a concentration (at least 18 SCH) in a subject relevant to the elementary grades (e.g., English/language arts, history, mathematics, biology, Spanish, art history).

#### Common Reasons programs do not meet the Elementary Content Standard

##### 1. Undergraduate “general education” requirements are too broad.

To fulfill these requirements, colleges and universities often allow students to choose from a wide array of courses, many of which do not prepare candidates for the elementary curriculum.

##### **SOLUTION**

Give teacher candidates guidance about which courses they should take.

##### 2. Required content coursework is for a teacher audience.

##### **SOLUTION**

Make sure your teacher candidates get a thorough and rigorous introduction to content by requiring them to take courses targeted toward general audiences (e.g., Introduction to biology), not toward teachers (e.g., Biology for teachers).

#### LOOKING FOR A STRONG TEST FOR ADMISSION?

##### **Satisfactory tests include:**

Praxis II – Elementary Education Multiple Subjects Test  
 Advanced Placement (AP)  
 SAT II Subject Tests  
 College Level Examination Program (CLEP)  
 Defense Activity for Non-Traditional Education Support (DANTES)  
 International Baccalaureate (IB)

#### Leaderboard

A few programs that meet this standard:

**Coming fall 2016**

#### Science Standouts:

Each of these programs require a standard course in each of the three major sciences: biology, chemistry and physical science.

**Coming fall 2016**

#### Follow the links below to learn more

Exemplary Programs & Findings [nctq.org/dmsView/Teacher\\_Prep\\_Review\\_2014\\_Std6](http://nctq.org/dmsView/Teacher_Prep_Review_2014_Std6)  
 Methodology & Rationale [nctq.org/dmsView/Standard\\_Book\\_6](http://nctq.org/dmsView/Standard_Book_6)  
 Resources [nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/resources/index.jsp](http://nctq.org/teacherPrep/review2014/resources/index.jsp)