



LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS

2001-2002 INSTITUTIONAL REPORT FOR THE PREPARATION OF TEACHERS

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

Message from the Commissioner:

We are pleased to offer the following reports on teacher education programs in Louisiana's colleges and universities. This information is important to our continuing efforts to keep the public informed about the quality of our teacher preparation programs. Last year (2000-2001) was a baseline year for the reporting of data. This year, the first factor used in our comprehensive accountability program is being released – student passage rates on the teacher certification examination (PRAXIS). Additional factors will be assessed in the coming years in an effort to develop an overall assessment of teacher preparation programs that is meaningful and serves as a catalyst for continued reform. As a result of authentic partnerships now being created between universities and districts to recruit, prepare, and retain teachers, we are building upon our united goal of providing every child in Louisiana caring and qualified teachers in every class every year. We commend our universities and districts for their ongoing commitment to improve education in Louisiana.

E. Joseph Savoie
Commissioner of Higher Education

Mission of University

Nicholls State University commits itself to offering an excellent comprehensive education, including a majority of nationally accredited programs, that meets the needs of the communities it serves in south central Louisiana and beyond through teaching, research, and service.

Student Characteristics of University

During Fall 2000, Nicholls State University had a total enrollment of 6,565 undergraduate and 780 graduate students. A total of 2,650 students were males and 4,695 were females. The majority of the students were from Louisiana with a total of 7,122 in-state students, 141 out-of-state students, and 82 foreign students. Among students enrolled in the undergraduate program, 988 were black, 5,203 were white, and 374 were other races. Among students enrolled in the graduate program, 119 were black, 617 were white, and 44 were other races.

Accreditation and Approval of Teacher Preparation Program

Nicholls State University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (SACS). In addition, Nicholls State University is accredited with probation by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). All of the university's teacher preparation programs are approved by the Board of Regents and the Louisiana Department of Education.

Notable Features and Accomplishments of Teacher Preparation Program

- Nicholls State University prepares the majority of teachers in Region III.
- In Region III served by Nicholls State University, 61 K-12 schools achieved Exemplary Academic Ratings and 29 were recognized for Academic Growth.
- Nicholls State University and the College of Education have collaborated with the K-12 schools and the Region III Service Center to obtain an \$800,000 federal grant to improve teaching of American History in the schools.
- Nicholls State University and the College of Education obtained a \$1.3 million grant from the US Department of Education (PT3) to train university faculty and K-12 teachers in the integration of technology in academic instruction.
- Nicholls State University and the College of Education developed an Educational Technology Leadership Program as a concentration in its Masters Degree Program in Educational Administration and Supervision to meet the advanced technological needs and aspirations of the K-12 teachers and administrators in its service region.
- Nicholls State University and the College of Education in collaboration with the Region III schools consortium partnered to develop an educational technology-training laboratory on the university site. This laboratory trains K-12 teachers, university faculty, and teacher education candidates in the integration of technology into their instruction.

Notable Features and Accomplishments of Teacher Preparation Program (Cont'd)

- Nicholls State University and the College of Education in collaboration with Assumption Parish School Board planned, developed, and piloted an Assumption Parish Intern Program, an innovative approach whereby student teachers are assigned to a classroom as the full time teacher but with a full time mentor who serves and supports only their cohort
- Nicholls State University and the College of Education are in the third year of a five-year innovative dual certification program whereby program completers are certified to teach elementary grades and special education.
- Nicholls State University has developed Professional Development Schools with Maitland Elementary School in St. Mary Parish and West Thibodaux Junior High School in Lafourche Parish.
- The Teacher Education Program has been recognized as an Area of Excellence by the University of Louisiana System.

Teacher Preparation Program Data

The following data have been provided about the teacher preparation program.

1. Total number of students formally admitted to the regular teacher preparation program and enrolled in one or more courses during academic year 2000-2001 including all areas of teaching specialization.	506
2. Total number of students enrolled in the regular teacher preparation program and alternate certification program including all areas of teaching specialization who participated in programs of supervised student teaching or supervised internships during Summer 2000, Fall 2000, and/or Spring 2001.	193

Teacher Preparation Program Data (Cont'd)

3. Supervising faculty for supervised student teaching and internship experiences.	
a. Number of appointed full time faculty in professional education who supervised student teaching/internship experiences during Summer 2000, Fall 2000, and Spring 2001.	27
b. Number of appointed part-time faculty in professional education who supervised student teaching/internship experiences during Summer 2000, Fall 2000, and Spring 2001.	7
c. Number of appointed part-time faculty in professional education, not otherwise employed by the institution, who supervised student teaching/internship experiences during Summer 2000, Fall 2000, and Spring 2001.	22
d. Total number of supervising faculty for the teacher preparation program during 2000-2001.	56
4. Student/faculty ratio for student teaching and internship experiences.	4:1
5. Student participation in student teaching.	
a. Average number of hours per week required of student participation in supervised student teaching during academic year 2000-2001.	30
b. Total number of weeks per semester of supervised student teaching required for student teaching during academic year 2000-2001.	15
c. Total number of hours required during academic year 2000-2001 for student teaching.	450



LOUISIANA BOARD OF REGENTS 2001-2002 TEACHER PREPARATION ACCOUNTABILITY SYSTEM

NICHOLLS STATE UNIVERSITY

In compliance with the Higher Education Act of 1998, Louisiana has created a Teacher Preparation Accountability System that is assessing the performance of teacher preparation programs within the state. During the first phase of the accountability system, the performance of regular and alternate certification students on the state teachers' examination (PRAXIS) is being assessed. During each succeeding year, additional factors will be assessed to examine such areas as: increased quantity in critical shortage areas; ratings by first year teachers of their teacher preparation programs; ratings of programs by first year teachers' mentors; retention of teachers after three years of teaching; and university-district partnerships. The purpose of this accountability system is to clearly demonstrate to the public that all universities and colleges in the state are diligently working to address the need to produce quality teachers who are effective when working with PK-12 students.

GRADE FOR PERFORMANCE ON STATE TEACHERS' EXAMINATION

Nicholls State University has been assigned a grade of **A** for the performance of regular and alternate certification program completers on the state teachers' examination (PRAXIS). The following scale was used to determine performance grades: A+ (Exemplary) = 98-100% Passage Rate; A = 92-97% Passage Rate; B = 86-91% Passage Rate; C (At-Risk) = 80-85% Passage Rate; Below C (Low Performing) = Below 80% Passage Rate.

PASSAGE RATES OF ALL REGULAR AND ALTERNATE CERTIFICATION PROGRAM COMPLETERS

The following table summarizes passage rates of regular and alternate certification program completers during 1999-2000, 2000-2001, and both years for **Nicholls State University**.

1999-2000 PROGRAM COMPLETERS			2000-2001 PROGRAM COMPLETERS			TOTAL 1999-2000 & 2000-2001 PROGRAM COMPLETERS		
Type of Certification Program	Number Passed	% Passed	Type of Certification Program	Number Passed	% Passed	Type of Certification Program	Number Passed	% Passed
Regular	141 out of 150 students	94%	Regular	139 out of 140 students	99%	Regular	280 out of 290 students	97%
Alternate	51 out of 51 students	100%	Alternate	27 out of 31 students	87%	Alternate	78 out of 82 students	95%
Total	192 out of 201 students	96%	Total	166 out of 171 students	97%	Total	358 out of 372 students	96%

PROCESS TO DETERMINE GRADES

Grades are based upon either the passage rates of program completers during the most recent academic year (2000-2001) OR average passage rates of program completers during the previous two years (1999-2000 and 2000-2001). The highest of the two passage rates is used to determine the actual grade. This process is used to adjust for three conditions: (1) limited number of program completers at institutions with small teacher preparation programs; (2) variance in student populations over a two year time period; and (3) significant improvements occurring at institutions over a two year time period.



PRAXIS EXAMINATION PASSAGE RATE REPORTS FOR INDIVIDUAL SUBTESTS 2000-2001 REGULAR PROGRAM COMPLETERS

ENTRY REQUIREMENTS FOR TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

All regular and alternate certification students must pass the following PRAXIS subtests to be formally admitted to a teacher preparation program at a college or university in Louisiana. Regular students are those who are completing a program of study to graduate with a baccalaureate degree in education. Alternate certification students are those who already possess a baccalaureate degree outside of education and are completing an alternate certification program to become certified to teach.

Type of Assessment: **Basic Skills**

- (1) Communications Skills and General Knowledge **OR**
- (2) Reading, Writing, and Mathematics

State law requires all students to take all required PRAXIS subtests prior to graduation, but it does not require students to pass the subtests. Individual institutions have developed their own policies that require students to pass the PRAXIS subtests to graduate.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION REQUIREMENTS IN LOUISIANA

To be certified to teach in Louisiana, individuals must complete an approved teacher preparation program, possess a 2.5 grade point average, pass the Basic Skills subtests, and pass PRAXIS subtests in the following areas:

Type of Assessment: **Professional Knowledge**

- (1) Professional Knowledge **OR**
- (2) Principles Learning & Teaching K-6 **OR**
- (3) Principles Learning & Teaching 7-12

AND

Type of Assessment: **Academic Content Areas** The subtests vary according to the areas of certification.

REQUIREMENTS OF THE HIGHER EDUCATION ACT OF 1998

The Higher Education Act of 1998 requires all institutions in the United States with teacher preparation programs to issue institutional reports on a yearly basis which contain information specified by the U.S. Department of Education. In addition, the Act requires institutions to provide the public with specific information pertaining to the passage rates of regular program completers on individual subtests. The following pages contain a report developed by the Educational Testing Service to provide a breakdown of program completer performance on individual subtests.

A similar report is currently being developed by the Educational Testing Service regarding the performance of 2000-2001 alternate certification program completers on individual subtests. Once the report is received, it will be placed on the Board of Regents web site (<http://www.regents.state.la.us>).



**HEA - Title II
2000-2001 Academic Year
Regular Program Completers**

Institution Name	Nicholls State University
Institution Code	6221
State	Louisiana
Number of Program Completers Submitted	140
Number of Program Completers found, matched, and used in passing rate Calculations	140

<i>Type of Assessment</i>	<i>Assessment Code Number</i>	<i>Number Taking Assessment</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment</i>	<i>Institutional Pass Rate</i>
Basic Skills				
COMMUNICATION SKILLS	500	131	131	100%
GENERAL KNOWLEDGE	510	128	128	100%
PPST READING	710	7		
CBT READING	711	1		
PPST WRITING	720	7		
CBT WRITING	721	1		
PPST MATHEMATICS	730	10	10	100%
CBT MATHEMATICS	731	1		
Professional Knowledge				
PROFESSIONAL KNOWLEDGE	520	28	28	100%
PRINCIPLES LEARNING & TEACHING K-6	522	73	73	100%
PRINCIPLES LEARNING & TEACHING 7-12	524	38	38	100%
Academic Content Areas				
EDUCATION IN THE ELEMENTARY SCHOOL	010	7		
ELEM ED CURR INSTRUC ASSESSMENT	011	82	80	98%
ELEM ED CONTENT AREA EXERCISES	012	81	81	100%
EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION	020			
BIOLOGY AND GENERAL SCIENCE	030	4		
ENGLISH LANGUAGE AND LITERATURE	040			
ENG LANG LIT COMP CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	041	5		
ENG LANG LIT COMP PEDAGOGY	043	5		



**HEA - Title II
2000-2001 Academic Year
Regular Program Completers (Cont'd)**

Institution Name	Nicholls State University
Institution Code	6221
State	Louisiana
Number of Program Completers Submitted	140
Number of Program Completers found, matched, and used in passing rate Calculations	140

<i>Type of Assessment</i>	<i>Assessment Code Number</i>	<i>Number Taking Assessment</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment</i>	<i>Institutional Pass Rate</i>
Academic Content Areas (Cont'd)				
MATHEMATICS	060	2		
CHEM PHYSICS AND GENERAL SCIENCE	070	1		
SOCIAL STUDIES	080	1		
SOCIAL STUDIES: CONTENT KNOWLEDGE	081	5		
SOCIAL STUDIES: INTERPRET MATERIALS	083	5		
PHYSICAL EDUCATION	090	13	13	100%
BUSINESS EDUCATION	100	2		
MUSIC EDUCATION	110	3		
HOME ECONOMICS EDUCATION	120	4		
FRENCH	170	1		



**HEA - Title II
2000-2001 Academic Year
Regular Program
Completers**

Institution Name	Nicholls State University
Institution Code	6221
State	Louisiana
Number of Program Completers Submitted	140
Number of Program Completers found, matched, and used in passing rate Calculations	140

<i>Type of Assessment</i>	<i>Number Taking Assessment</i>	<i>Number Passing Assessment</i>	<i>Institutional Pass Rate</i>
Aggregate - Basic Skills	139	139	100%
Aggregate - Professional Knowledge	139	139	100%
Aggregate - Academic Content Areas (Math, English, Biology, etc.)	130	128	98%
Aggregate - Other Content Areas (Career/Technical Education, Health Educations, etc.)			
Aggregate - Teaching Special Populations (Special Education, ELS, etc.)			
Aggregate - Performance Assessments			
Summary Totals and Pass Rates	140	139	99%