

Effectively Teaches Subject Matter (InTASC 4)

Faculty prepare teacher candidates to have the knowledge, skills, and dispositions to teach students. VCSU studies data for program improvement of teacher preparation from a variety of perspectives. The data below provide a sample assessment item and how the EPP can view feedback from cooperating teachers, teacher candidates, completers, and employers.

Standard #4: Content Knowledge. The teacher understands the central concepts, tools of inquiry, and structures of the discipline(s) he or she teaches and creates learning experiences that make these aspects of the discipline accessible and meaningful for learners to assure mastery of the content.

Student Teaching Cooperating Teacher Ratings of Teacher Candidates Fall 2017-Spring 2020 <i>4-Distinguished; 3-Proficient; 2-Emerging; 1-Underdeveloped (3.5, 2.5, and 1.5 ratings are permitted)</i>	Mean Score
Effectively teaches subject matter (InTASC 4) N=495	3.39
Student Teaching Teacher Candidate Self-Assessment Ratings Fall 2018-Spring 2020 (same ratings as cooperating teachers) <i>4-Distinguished; 3-Proficient; 2-Emerging; 1-Underdeveloped (3.5, 2.5, and 1.5 ratings are permitted)</i>	Mean Score
Effectively teaches subject matter (InTASC 4) N=334	3.44
Teacher Candidate Exit Survey Ratings Fall 2011-Spring 2020 (Student teachers at time of graduation) To what extent do you agree or disagree that your teacher preparation program gave you the basic skills to do the following? <i>4-Agree; 3-Tend to Agree; 2-Tend to Disagree; 1-Disagree</i>	Mean Score
Effectively teaches subject matter (InTASC 4) – VCSU Candidates N=1055	3.66
Completer Survey Ratings Spring 2012-Spring 2020 (Alumni perceptions during first year of teaching) To what extent do you agree or disagree that your teacher preparation program prepared you to... <i>4-Agree; 3-Tend to Agree; 2-Tend to Disagree; 1-Disagree</i>	Mean Score
Effectively teach the subject matter in my licensure area (InTASC 4) – VCSU First Year Teachers N=437	3.70
Employer Survey Ratings Spring 2012-Spring 2020 (Principals ratings of VCSU first year teachers) To what extent do you agree or disagree that this first-year teacher does the following? <i>4-Agree; 3-Tend to Agree; 2-Tend to Disagree; 1-Disagree</i>	Mean Score
Effectively teach the subject matter in his/her licensure area (InTASC 4) - Employers of VCSU First Year Teachers N=317	3.77

Analysis: The data gathered from these various perspectives consistently indicate a belief that teacher candidates are well prepared to effectively teach subject matter. The mean scores for the teacher candidate ratings and the completer ratings indicate confidence. The cooperating teacher mean score ratings are well above the proficient level (3.00) and employer mean score rating of 3.77 is much closer to “Agree” than “Tend to Agree”. The cooperating teacher and employer ratings provide meaningful feedback from external sources of VCSU teacher candidate and completer performances while teaching K-12 learners.

Action: Teacher candidates need to develop knowledge, skills, and dispositions. The alignment with the InTASC Standards helps to strengthen the validity of the EPP's assessment efforts. Gathering assessment data from multiple assessments and multiple sources can strengthen the reliability of EPP's assessment efforts as well as makes the data more meaningful to the stakeholders reviewing the data. The unit will continue to help teacher candidates develop content knowledge as well as the skills and dispositions to effectively teach subject matter to learners.