

**Subject:** Revision of the Spanish Praxis II test cut score.

**Background:** Last year, ETS developed a new Spanish Praxis II test. The test was converted from paper to computer. Two SD faculty participated in the multi-state standards setting study. The recommended range for cut scores was 156-180. SD adopted a cut score of 160. We have discovered that most of our SD students taking this test are not passing it. Besides being new, the test is longer and harder than the previous test. It includes the components of listening, reading, writing, and speaking. The previous test had more emphasis on literature and culture.

Our students are caught in a bind during this transition to the new test. BOR policy will not allow students to student teach if they have not passed the Spanish Praxis. The universities cannot sign off on program completion until the students pass this test. USD and SDSU have asked for a temporary modification in the test cut score to allow time for the university programs to respond to changes in the exam.

**Recommendation:** Lower the cut score to 151, which is - 3 SEMs. We recommend making this change retroactive to October 2010 (when testing began) and run through May 2012 to allow the universities time to adjust their programs. Following that timeframe, establish a cut score of 156, which is -2 SEMs and within the ETS recommended cut score range.