A QUANTITATIVE SURVEY ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTARY PRESERVICE TEACHER PERCEPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT TASKS IN SCIENCE COURSEWORK

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A QUANTITATIVE SURVEY ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTARY PRESERVICE TEACHER PERCEPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT TASKS IN SCIENCE COURSEWORK

by

Allison Killingsworth, BBA, M.Ed.

Presented to the Faculty of the Graduate School of

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For the Degree of

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STEPHEN F. AUSTIN STATE UNIVERSITY

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A QUANTITATIVE SURVEY ANALYSIS OF ELEMENTARY PRESERVICE
TEACHER PERCEPTIONS OF ASSESSMENT TASKS IN SCIENCE

COURSEWORK

by

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This replication survey research study sought to further understand preservice elementary teachers’ perceptions of assessment tasks they encountered in secondary science coursework. Students are assessed through informal and formal assessments, including close-ended and open-ended questions, through classroom and high-stakes assessments. With great significance placed on high-stakes state assessments, classroom instruction and assessments oftentimes mirror the format of state assessments. The researcher administered a validated Likert scale inventory, the Perceptions of Assessment Tasks Inventory (PATI), to preservice elementary teachers to examine their perceptions of how assessment tasks reflected their knowledge and understanding of science assessment tasks. The researcher found the research participants’ perceptions were more positive regarding assessment tasks the teacher had more control over, including the alignment of learning with assessments, and transparency of assessments. The research participants’ least positive perceptions were assessment tasks where students had influence over their assessments, including student consultation and diversity in assessments.
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DEDICATION

This dissertation is dedicated to my husband, daughter, mom, as well as in memory to my dad. Thank you for always encouraging and believing in me!
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  - Assessed knowledge
  - Pedagogical practices
  - Decontextualized content
  - Students’ thinking skills

- Measuring Students’ Knowledge
- Student-Centered Learning and Assessment
- Constructivism
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