

edTPA: A Guide for Cooperating Teachers

Definition

edTPA is a summative, subject-specific, portfolio-based assessment of teacher performance, completed during Student Teaching. This multiple measure assessment is intended to evaluate the act of teaching and the observable impact that the candidate’s practices have on student learning. The edTPA is required by the New York State Department of Education for issuance of first initial teacher certificate. However, the UB teacher education program is attempting to reduce the focus of the edTPA as a certification requirement and instead highlight the ways in which it can help candidates articulate their thoughts on teaching and learning to develop skills of self-assessment.

Format

The edTPA is an authentic assessment tool, in which candidates document and describe, their ability to develop and evaluate student learning. The assessment focuses on five dimensions of teaching: planning, instruction, assessment, analyzing teaching, and academic language.

For the edTPA, candidates will select a learning segment of 3-5 lessons from a unit of instruction, and submit authentic artifacts as evidence of student learning. Candidates must also submit commentaries that provide a rationale to support their instructional practices based on the learning strengths and needs of their students.

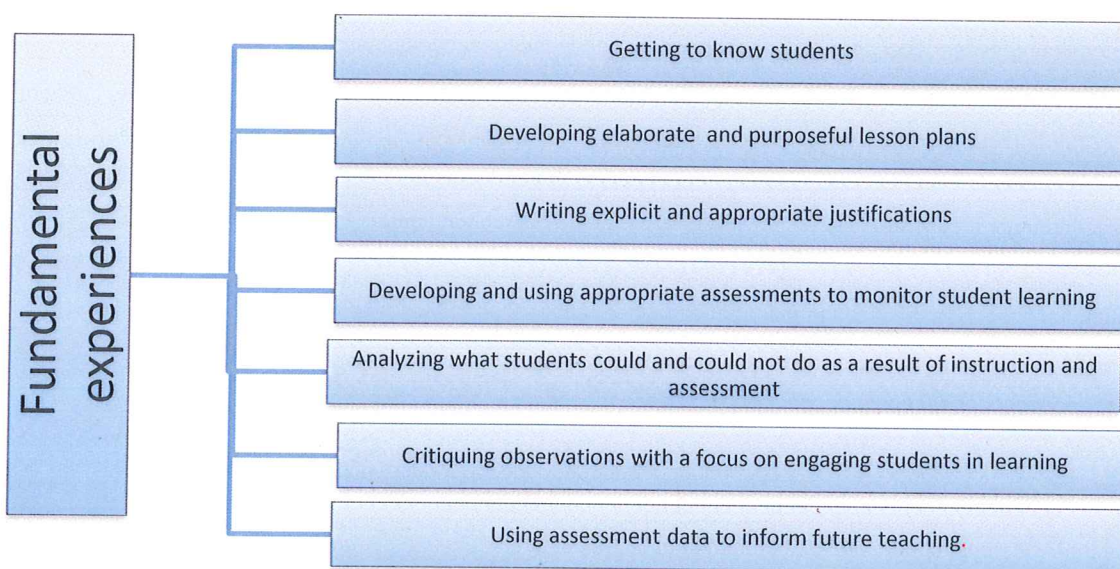
Planning	Instruction	Assessment
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Instructional and social context • Lesson plans • Instructional materials, student assignments • Planning Commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Video Clips • Instruction Commentary 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Analysis of whole class assessment • Analysis of learning and feedback to THREE students • Assessment Commentary

- **Instruction** includes one or two unedited video clips of approximately 5 - 10 minutes from the learning segment and a commentary analyzing how the candidate engages students in learning activities. Candidates also demonstrate subject-specific pedagogical strategies and how they elicit and monitor students to develop a deep subject matter understanding.
- **Academic Language** development is evaluated based on the candidate’s ability to support students’ oral and written use of academic language to deepen subject matter understandings. Academic language is defined as the language of the discipline that students need to learn and use to participate and engage in meaningful ways in the content area. Candidates explain how students demonstrate academic language using student work samples and/or video recordings of student engagement.

Supporting Candidates

Given the placement of edTPA during Student Teaching, professional conversations about teaching and learning associated with the outcomes assessed in edTPA are encouraged. Likewise, it is understandable that candidates learning to teach would be guided by more experienced teachers. However, Cooperating Teachers should keep in mind that the successful completion of the edTPA is the sole responsibility of the teacher candidate. Support offered by Cooperating Teachers should be limited to formative support typically given and not focus on specific evaluation of edTPA tasks. The intention is to promote good teaching practice throughout the teaching experience to ensure that the edTPA is solely the work of the teacher candidate and to prevent the Student Teaching experience from devolving into solely test preparation

A Framework for Formative Support



Preparing for edTPA

Cooperating Teachers already support candidates with experiences similar to the tasks in the edTPA. The work now is to find opportunities to include additional standards and nuances of the edTPA into these practices. To prepare for supporting teacher candidates, Cooperating Teachers might start with the following steps. 1) Read the handbook for the subject area you teach. 2) Discuss the tasks with the candidate. 3) Map out the curriculum the Student Teacher will be responsible for and assist them in selecting content for the Learning Segment. 4) Review the video permission forms and assist in obtaining student permission.

Grading

The edTPA will be graded using 15 analytic rubrics (with some variation in content areas) on a five point scoring scale. Pearson will train qualified scorers, made up of teacher education faculty, cooperating educators, and p-12 educators, to evaluate candidates' submissions. According to Pearson, candidates can expect to receive a score indicating whether they passed or failed within four weeks of submission. Candidates may re-submit all or part of their edTPA if they fail on the initial try.