edTPA

edTPA Guidelines for Acceptable Candidate Support
Revised April 2014

edTPA is a summative, subject-specific portfolio-based assessment of teaching performance, completed during a preparation program within a clinical field experience. edTPA is designed to assess a teaching candidates' readiness to teach.

Given the placement of edTPA within an educational program, professional conversations about teaching and learning associated with the outcomes assessed in edTPA are expected and encouraged. Consistent with research on student learning,[1] programs are encouraged to help candidates examine expectations for performance evaluated by edTPA in meaningful ways and discuss how they will demonstrate their performance in relation to those expectations. One highly effective way to clarify what edTPA requires AND prepare candidates to teach well is to closely examine the rubrics. Faculty, supervisors and cooperating teachers should take time to examine the language, structure and progression of the edTPA rubrics during formative experiences throughout the program.

Candidates receive a variety of support during their coursework and fieldwork to help prepare for and respond to the tasks of edTPA. For example, within their coursework and key program assignments and activities, candidates receive feedback from instructors and fellow candidates. A methodology class could include assignments related to curriculum and lesson design, and an educational psychology class could include assignments related to analyzing student assessment data: both activities could help support the candidate's thinking about how to design lessons and understand assessment in relationship to the expectations identified in edTPA. Instructors typically also provide feedback to candidates relative to the teaching standards of their field and any state standards for teaching performance addressed within the coursework and assignments.

During field experiences, candidates are trying out what they have learned, and they receive feedback on their performance from supervisors, cooperating teachers, and other support providers. These activities and formative experiences provide opportunities for candidates to "practice the activities of edTPA" and to synthesize their learning from the program. . Preparation for edTPA offers many collegial opportunities for candidates to share and discuss their experiences as well as to share and discuss responses to practice activities.

Although many program activities and experiences provide acceptable forms of support for candidates within the edTPA process, other activities are not acceptable within a summative assessment process that is intended to determine whether each candidate individually demonstrates mastery of state/program standards and should be recommended for an initial license.

This document clarifies what are acceptable forms of support for candidates during the edTPA process and what are unacceptable forms of support. It replaces earlier versions posted at http://edtpa.aacte.org/ and https://www.edtpa.com/.

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[1] Black, P., & Wiliam, D. (1998). Inside the black box: Raising standards through classroom assessment. *Phi Delta Kappan*. Retrieved from https://www.measuredprogress.org/documents/10157/15653/InsideBlackBox.pdf

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Acceptable Forms of Support for Candidates within the edTPA Process

The following are examples of acceptable types of support for candidates within the edTPA process:

- Providing candidates with access to handbooks and other explanatory materials about edTPA and expectations for candidate performance on the assessment
- Explaining edTPA tasks and scoring rubrics and guiding discussions about them
- Providing and discussing support documents such as *Making Good Choices* about what lessons or examples to use within the assessment responses
- Discussing samples of previously completed edTPA portfolio materials (where appropriate permissions have been granted)
- Engaging candidates in formative experiences aligned with edTPA (e.g., assignments analyzing their instruction, developing curriculum units, or assessing student work)
- Explaining scoring rubrics, and using these rubrics in formative exercises or assignments[2]
- Using rubric constructs or rubric language to evaluate and debrief observations made by field supervisors or cooperating teachers as part of the clinical supervision process
- Offering candidate seminars focusing on the skills and abilities identified in edTPA, such as an Academic Language seminar
- Asking probing questions about candidates' draft edTPA responses or videorecordings, without providing direct edits of the candidate's writing or providing candidates with specific answers to edTPA prompts
- Assisting candidates in understanding how to use the electronic platforms for models/programs using electronic uploading of candidate responses
- Arranging technical assistance for the video portion of the assessment

Unacceptable Forms of Candidate Support during the Assessment

The following provides examples of unacceptable types of support for candidates within the edTPA process:
- Editing a candidate's official materials prior to submission
- Offering critique of candidate responses that provides specific, alternative responses, prior to submission for official scoring
- Telling candidates which video clips to select for submission
- Uploading candidate edTPA responses (written responses or videotape entries) on public access social media websites.

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[2] Note: If candidates, peers, or instructors use rubrics in formative exercises or assignments, they must be aware that such local scoring cannot be assumed to to be comparable to the scoring conducted by trained evaluators who have met calibrated scoring standards.