edTPA Step-by-Step for Candidates

STEP 1 Do Your Homework

Read, in their entirety, the Making Good Choices document and your subject-specific handbook. Know where you are going before you begin. Understand the big picture.

Become a detective about your school, your classroom, and your students. Complete the Context for Learning document, but also consider information about your students: Who are they? What are their cultural, community, and personal assets? What are their prior learning experiences?

Talk with your cooperating teacher about your school video policy, resources available at the school, and their role in the edTPA process. Determine, based on your program’s deadline, the best topic for your 3-5 day learning segment. Learn the standards and content associated with that learning segment.

STEP 2 Plan Your Learning Segment

Based on your learning segment’s standards, write a central focus and determine your language demands.*

Write daily objectives that build upon each other to reach the goals of your central focus.

Design multiple assessments and their rubrics to measure your daily objectives directly. It is not necessary to have a summative assessment in your learning segment.

As you design your activities and lessons, use the information you learned about your students in Step One to access their prior knowledge, build on their prior learning, and capitalize on their assets.

Communicate your plans, and get feedback from your cooperating teacher. Make sure you have permission to record your students.

STEP 3 Teach Your Lessons

Obtain your recording equipment at least a week before your learning segment. Practice recording your students to get them accustomed to the camera and make sure you can work the equipment.

Record every day of your learning segment. Take notes each day to help you determine which clips to use.

Collect your assessment data and give good, quality feedback. Make copies of student work samples and associated feedback. Once you choose an assessment to analyze, create a table or graph that analyzes the whole class’ performance. Use that analysis to choose three focus students to demonstrate the class analysis. Make sure at least one focus student has a specific learning need.

Write your commentaries for Tasks 2 and 3.

Throughout the process: Refer to the evidence chart in the back of your handbook to ensure that you are saving the correct files in the correct format. Make sure you answer the actual questions asked of you and follow all instructions. Remember to focus on student learning above all else.

This guide is for all candidates who are not completing the Special Education or the combined Elementary Education (4 task) handbooks.

* World Language candidates do not need to include academic language demands.