



edTPA Overview and Frequently Asked Questions

1. What is edTPA or Teacher Performance Assessment?

edTPA or Teacher Performance Assessment is a subject-area-specific, performance-based portfolio assessment for pre-service teacher candidates centered on student learning.

edTPA assesses the teaching of real students in actual classrooms. The edTPA will produce a profile of teaching practice to help novices identify relative strengths and weaknesses to guide ongoing professional growth and improvement.

The process requires candidates to actually demonstrate the knowledge and skills required to help all students learn in real classrooms. edTPA is intended to be used for teacher licensure and to support state and national program accreditation. edTPA complements existing entry-level assessments that focus on basic skills or subject-matter knowledge. It is comparable to the licensing exams that demand applications of skills in other professions, such as medical licensing exams, the architecture exam, or the bar exam in law.

edTPA is subject-specific with separate versions for Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle Childhood and Secondary licensure fields. edTPA includes a review of a teacher candidate's authentic teaching materials as the culmination of a teaching and learning process that documents and demonstrates each candidate's ability to effectively teach subject matter to all students.

2. What are the costs associated with edTPA?

A \$300 fee will be charged for the edTPA. The cost covers all edTPA assessment services, including a professional, qualified evaluator who has been trained on edTPA rubrics, expectations of performance, and standardized scoring procedures, and who will be monitored during scoring activities to maintain high quality.

3. How does the edTPA meet licensure requirements in Iowa?

Currently, the State of Iowa will accept the edTPA for licensure in lieu of Praxis II testing in Content and Principles of Learning and Teaching (PLT).

To be recommended for licensure by Northwestern College, you must pass both the edTPA and the Praxis II Content test in your primary area of licensure. If you do not pass the edTPA, you will have the option of resubmitting your revised edTPA, or passing a Praxis PLT test (see item 5 below).

4. What if I'm a double major?

You are only required by the state of Iowa to pass one Praxis II content test.

5. What happens if I do not pass the edTPA?

You will have the option of resubmitting your revised edTPA or passing a Praxis PLT test.

6. When will I find out more about the edTPA?

You will hear about the edTPA in many of your methods courses. Support for the edTPA will also be provided prior to and during your student teaching experience.