What is the edTPA?

Minnesota requires the completion of a performance-based assessment for teacher candidates, specifically, the edTPA™, which is completed during student teaching. This handout introduces the edTPA, with additional information provided during coursework. BSU also provides mandatory webinars during student teaching, walking candidates through the edTPA process.

To complete the edTPA, candidates apply what they have learned from their coursework about research, theory, as well as teaching and learning strategies. Candidates provide artifacts documenting teaching and learning over the course of about 3-5 days, which includes commentaries explaining, analyzing, or reflecting on the artifacts.

The edTPA includes three main tasks:

- Task 1: Planning for Instruction and Assessment
    - Creating lesson plans, instructional materials, and student assignments
    - Candidates write a planning commentary with rationale for the choice of materials and instructional styles
    - Candidates will write and share their lesson plans throughout the student teaching experience
- Task 2: Instructing and Engaging Students in Learning
    - Unedited video clips of actual teaching, with written commentary
    - The edTPA portfolio must include an unedited video recording and a written explanation of all preparation work and personal reflections.
    - The unedited video will show the candidate engaged with learners, but the video is for scoring purposes only and no names will be used
- Task 3: Assessing Student Learning
    - Samples of student work, summary of student learning assessment with commentary
    - The assessment portion of the edTPA asks the candidate to review student work samples and provide feedback to students
    - The assessment also requires commentary on the performance of the entire class to analyze what the candidate has learned about their teaching practice and students' learning

In addition to the three tasks outlined above, the edTPA reviewer looks at:

- Analysis of teaching
    - Written reflection of the planning, instruction, and assessment processes
- Use of Academic Language

How is the edTPA scored?

- All edTPA portfolios are evaluated by a professional from the field. These professionals are employed by Pearson and are trained and monitored to ensure quality.

Goals of the edTPA

- Improve K-12 student outcomes
- Improvement of teacher preparation programs
- Information for accreditation and a comparison of program effectiveness
- Used in combination with other measures as a requirement for licensure