

November 1, 2016

Dear Teacher Education Candidate,

This letter is being written to provide information about edTPA. Although you may have general knowledge about this assessment, this letter is intended to provide answers to the questions; what is edTPA, who is affected by edTPA, why is edTPA being implemented, and how much will edTPA cost teacher candidates? If, after reading this letter, you still have questions, please contact your program advisors for more information.

**What is edTPA?**

edTPA is a performance-based, subject-specific assessment and support system that measure and support the skills and knowledge that all teachers need. It is transforming the preparation and certification of new teachers by complementing subject-area assessments with a rigorous process that requires teacher candidates to demonstrate that they have the classroom skills necessary to ensure students are learning (<http://edtpa.aacte.org/faq#51>). The edTPA process identifies and collects subject-specific evidence of effective teaching from a learning segment. Teacher candidates collect authentic artifacts from a clinical field experience, which includes the videotaping of candidates' teaching and submitting approximately 2 video clips of about 10 minutes each for scoring. Candidates also submit commentaries that provide a rationale to support their instructional practices based on the learning strengths and needs of students. Although teacher education programs (i.e., elementary, subject matter, early childhood) have different videotaping requirements, typically candidates are required to create 3-5 lessons from a unit of instruction for one class of students.

**Who is affected by edTPA?**

On December 16, 2015, the New Jersey Department of Education announced that edTPA was approved as the performance assessment required for all candidates seeking the Certificate of Eligibility with Advanced Standing (CEAS). The decision to implement edTPA is effective to begin September 1, 2017 for all candidates seeking the CEAS. However, the College of Education at Rowan University has been slowly implementing edTPA into some teacher education program. By September 1, 2016, all teacher education candidates are required to participate in the edTPA process during their clinical practice.

**Why is edTPA being implemented?**

edTPA is designed to ensure that those who become teachers not only understand educational theory and subject matter content, but can demonstrate their ability to lead a classroom and ensure that students with diverse strengths and needs are learning. New teachers have to be effective from Day 1.

**How much will edTPA cost teacher candidates?**

To answer this question, it is important to note that all professions require some form of assessment to determine a candidate's readiness. For professionals outside the education profession, costs can exceed anywhere from \$500 to \$1,500. edTPA will cost teacher candidates \$300 and this cost will go into effect September 2017. Candidates who receive financial aid should consider this cost when planning their financials upon acceptance into a teacher education program.

In addition, you might find the following links helping as you prepare for edTPA:

[www.edtpa.com](http://www.edtpa.com)

<http://www.nj.gov/education/educators/rpr/preparation/assessment/>

I hope these questions and answers are helpful as you continue to pursue your teacher education program.

Sincerely,

Stacey Leftwich, Ph.D., Executive Director of the Office of Educator Support and Partnerships