edTPA FAQs at UNC Charlotte –
updated 10/11/17 (see indicated updates in questions below)

Note: Q13 addresses the recent NC pay increase for beginning teachers related to edTPA.

Q1: What is edTPA?

A: edTPA is a pre-service assessment process designed by educators to answer the essential question: “Is a new teacher ready for the job?” 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 his/her subject matter to all students.

Q2: How is edTPA constructed and used?

A: Evidence of a candidate's ability to teach is drawn from a subject-specific learning segment of 3-5 lessons from a unit of instruction taught to one class of students. Materials assessed as part of the edTPA process include video clips of instruction, lesson plans, student work samples, analysis of student learning, and reflective commentaries. Based on the submitted evidence, which is reviewed by trained scorers, faculty and candidates can discuss the impact of candidates' teaching performance on student learning and determine ways to improve teaching. Faculty can analyze evidence of candidate performance to guide decision-making about program revision. State education agencies may use edTPA scores for licensure and accreditation.

Q3: Which candidates have to complete edTPA during student teaching/graduate internship?

A: Beginning in the fall 2015 semester, all student teaching candidates must complete edTPA.

Q4: Will I use the edTPA “practice pieces” that I completed in the courses I took before student teaching as part of my Final edTPA Product I’m supposed to do during student teaching?

A: No … we have embedded edTPA “practice tasks” into our coursework prior to student teaching for all initial licensure programs. These practice tasks give you the chance to learn about edTPA and practice it without the pressures of student teaching. These practice tasks are just that—practice. When you get to your actual student teaching semester, you will complete an entire edTPA product (all required tasks) based on what you are teaching at that time and using the students in your P-12 classroom for student teaching. None of the practice pieces will be used for this final product, but the skills and understanding you’ve learned about edTPA will.

NEW – updated 8-14-17 - Q5: How will the edTPA be used in my licensure recommendation/student teaching grade?

A: edTPA is being phased in as a licensure requirement. Passing edTPA is NOT a requirement for a licensure recommendation for candidates finishing up through spring 2019. However, all
candidates **must submit** a score-able edTPA product for official scoring in order to pass the student teaching semester. For information about specific passing scores, see Q6 below.

**Beginning in AY 2019-2020, all student teaching candidates will have to pass edTPA in order to receive a licensure recommendation. This is a legislative requirement, meaning it is a state law.**

---

**Q6: What is a “passing score” on edTPA?**

A: All candidates who are completing the full-time student teaching internship semester must have an official passing score (noted below) on their submitted edTPA as part of their student teaching grade. Official scores are then converted into a project grade, and the project grade is calculated into the final student teaching grade. Candidates must receive an “A” or a “B” as the final student teaching grade to receive a licensure recommendation. **Passing scores* will be as follows:**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Content Area</th>
<th>Number of Rubrics scored in edTPA product</th>
<th>Required passing edTPA Score</th>
<th>Rubric Average</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>18</td>
<td>45</td>
<td>2.44</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Foreign Language</td>
<td>13</td>
<td>32</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>All other content areas, including Middle Grades, Secondary, Special Education, SPEL (Special Education and Elementary Dual), B-K, TESL, and all Arts areas</td>
<td>15</td>
<td>38</td>
<td>2.46</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

*Note: edTPA scoring rules include a new condition codes policy. All pieces of the edTPA product must be “score-able” (i.e., no condition codes in place of scores). If more than 2 pieces of an edTPA task are not score-able, the entire portfolio is not score-able. Candidates are encouraged to check their products prior to submission to make sure all files are complete. For more information on the edTPA Condition Code scoring policy, go to our edTPA Canvas Resources site under “Student Resources.”*

---

**Q7: Do I have to pass edTPA to finish student teaching and graduate?**

A: Candidates who do not meet requirements for passing edTPA can still pass student teaching (providing the rest of the student teaching grade components are satisfactory) and be recommended for a license. **This is not guaranteed;** the edTPA score is one part of the student teaching grade. It is in the best interests of each candidate to work diligently on all areas involved with the student teaching grade, including edTPA.
**Q8:** I am a middle grades undergraduate candidate and I have two Cooperating Teachers and two content areas. Does it matter which one I pick to use for my edTPA product?

A: Technically no, although we strongly recommend that middle grades undergraduate candidates use their first rotation content area during student teaching for the edTPA final product. Otherwise, you may be pushed to complete the edTPA product in your second content area by the submission deadline. **Middle grades undergraduate candidates only complete one edTPA final product. However, candidates will not know which product to complete until the student teaching semester.**

**Q9:** Who scores our edTPA final portfolio submission?

A: The final edTPA product completed during student teaching is scored by SCALE/Pearson. Scorers of edTPA final products are all content area experts who go through a rigorous training process to be accepted. The SCALE/Pearson scores are sent to the candidate and to the College of Education. The practice pieces candidates complete prior to student teaching are reviewed and scored by your course instructor as preparation.

**Q10:** What the deadline date for the final edTPA product completed during student teaching to be submitted to SCALE/Pearson?

A: Deadlines for official portfolio submission are announced in the beginning of the student teaching semester and are also available on the edTPA Canvas Site. Check with your university supervisor or edTPA support faculty for details.

**Q11:** Is there a fee for me to submit the edTPA Final Product?

A: There is a cost, but the submission fee will be paid by the College of Education; there is no cost for the candidate to submit the work product at this time. Candidates who are completing the student teaching semester will be provided a voucher code to use during the submission process.

**Q12:** Will there be support provided to me during the student teaching semester to finish my edTPA product?

A: While faculty and supervisors have strict guidelines about the kinds of support that can be provided during the student teaching/internship semester, student support sessions will be scheduled throughout the semester to assist candidates in completing the edTPA Final Product and submitting it for scoring by SCALE/Pearson.
Q13: I heard that getting a higher score on edTPA means I will be paid more as a beginning teacher ... what are the requirements about edTPA and salary for beginning teachers?

A: The 2017 budget bill (S257) included a mechanism for teachers who are entering the profession in 2017-18 to receive an additional “bump” on the salary scale that includes edTPA scores as one part of this “bump.” The increase is outlined in Part VIII, Section 8.2. (a.) and (b.). Please note this is subject to change at any time by the NC General Assembly. To find any legislation, go to www.ncleg.net and search for the bill/law. The hiring school system will determine if the candidate meets the criteria (not UNC Charlotte).

In order to qualify for the bump, teachers must meet the following criteria:
1) Graduate from an approved North Carolina teacher preparation program;
2) Attain a GPA of 3.75 or above (on a 4.0 scale), or an equivalent score on a different GPA scale;
3) Attain a score of 48 or higher on the edTPA assessment (or an equivalent score on a nationally normed and valid pedagogy assessment used to determine clinical performance).

If a teacher who is entering the profession in 2017-18 meets these criteria, and is hired by an LEA, they must be placed on the “A” teacher salary schedule as follows:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>If the Teacher …</th>
<th>Then the Teacher’s salary on the “A” Teacher Salary Schedule is …</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Meets the qualifying criteria</td>
<td>1 year of experience (salary) for year 0 of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the qualifying criteria + is licensed to teach in special education, science, technology, engineering, or mathematics</td>
<td>2 years of experience (salary) for years 0-1 of service</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Meets the qualifying criteria + works in a “low-performing” school upon initial employment</td>
<td>3 years of experience (salary) for years 0-2 of service</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Q14: How can I learn more about edTPA prior to the student teaching semester?

A: All teacher education programs now have edTPA-like assignments built into program coursework. As candidates complete these programs, they will have opportunities designed by course instructors to better understand the components of edTPA.
In addition, the edTPA Handbooks (containing student directions and all rubrics) plus a variety of other helpful resources are available on our College of Education edTPA Canvas site. Any UNC Charlotte student can enroll in our College of Education edTPA Canvas Site (to enroll: click this link → Enroll in edTPA Canvas course). Ninernet login required for Canvas access. Candidates and faculty should be reminded that the edTPA Handbook materials should NOT be duplicated or shared. Violations may result in user access to these materials being revoked.

Another good website for candidates is www.edtpa.com. This site provides general information about edTPA and scoring.

---

Q15: I know that there is also a teacher licensure exam. Do we have to 'pass' the edTPA to be allowed to take the licensure exam?

A: No. Any required licensure exams are mandated by NC DPI and are not part of edTPA. You may register to take the tests at any time you feel ready. Please see the table below for additional information and links about these tests.

For additional information about specific test passing scores, visit the TEALR website; to learn about Praxis tests, visit the ETS Praxis website and search by state; to learn about the NC Foundations tests, visit the NC Foundations of Teaching test website.

---

### LICENSURE TESTING REQUIREMENTS – UNC CHARLOTTE TEACHER PREPARATION PROGRAMS

**As of: October 25, 2016**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Program</th>
<th>Prior to Student Teaching</th>
<th>For Licensure</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Elementary Education</td>
<td>Take all PRACTICE TESTS for Foundations tests (Reading and</td>
<td>Pass all Foundations tests (Reading and General Curriculum</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>(K-6)</td>
<td>General Curriculum with the Math Subtest) in coursework / Canvas</td>
<td>with the Math Subtest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>prior to student teaching.</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Middle Grades (6-9)</td>
<td>None required but candidates are strongly encouraged to go</td>
<td>Pass Praxis II in one content area</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ahead and take Praxis II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Secondary (9-12)</td>
<td>None required but candidates are strongly encouraged to go</td>
<td>Pass both Praxis II (pedagogy and content tests)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ahead and take Praxis II</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Program</td>
<td>Take all PRACTICE TESTS</td>
<td>Pass all Foundations tests (Reading and General Curriculum with the Math Subtest)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>----------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
<td>----------------------------------------------------------------------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| SPEL Elementary Education + Special Education (Duals) (K-6) | Take all PRACTICE TESTS for Foundations tests (Reading and General Curriculum with the Math Subtest) in coursework / Canvas prior to student teaching.  
  - Candidates are strongly encouraged to go ahead and take Praxis II | Pass required Praxis II test |
| Special Education (K-12) (Adapted Curriculum) | Take all PRACTICE TESTS for Foundations tests (Reading and General Curriculum with the Math Subtest) in coursework / Canvas prior to student teaching.  
  - None required but candidates are strongly encouraged to go ahead and take Praxis II | Pass both Praxis II tests (pedagogy and content tests) |
| Special Education (K-12) (General Curriculum) | Take all PRACTICE TESTS for Foundations tests (Reading and General Curriculum with the Math Subtest) in coursework / Canvas prior to student teaching.  
  - Candidates are also strongly encouraged to go ahead and take Praxis II | Pass required Praxis II test |
| Visual Art, Music, Foreign Language, Teaching English as Second Language (TESL) (K-12) | None required but candidates are strongly encouraged to go ahead and take Praxis II | Pass required Praxis II |
| CHFD (B-K), Dance, and Theater Arts | None | None |