CalTPA Cycles

Frequently Asked Questions – Answers

General Questions

What is the Teaching Performance Assessment?

The Teaching Performance Assessment (TPA) is a test that all teacher candidates must pass in order to receive a Preliminary Teaching Credential from the state of California. The test is made up of four separate tasks that you will take during your program of study.

Who is required to take the TPA?

All teacher candidates who wish to receive a Preliminary Teaching Credential must successfully pass both of the TPA Cycles.

When will I be required to take the TPA?

Each Teacher Candidate will need to complete Cycles 1 and 2 TPA during your supervised teaching whether it be Student Teaching or Internship

How do I turn in the TPA?

Each semester the TPA due date will be set by the programs. Candidates must submit their cycle **24** hours before the due date to ensure submission is received. Submissions will be made through the Pearson website (this requires a submission of $150). Teacher candidates are expected to meet the deadlines given in this syllabus. To be able to use a later turn in date the teacher candidate needs the approval of the instructor and the TPA Coordinator.

What happens if I fail to submit a task on time?

Failure to show your final draft to your instructor prior to submitting the task will result in the candidate receiving a No Credit for the course and must resubmit at the next possible time.

When are the TPA Classes held?

As a teacher candidate in the credential program your presence in class adds to the level of discussion and learning. Attendance and participation in discussions will assist you in writing your responses to Cycle 1 and 2 and success in the course. Therefore**, if you miss any of the mandatory class meetings or miss one of your individual appointments you will be dropped from class, receiving a no credit, and not allowed to submit your task this semester. Missed sessions can be made up at the discretion of the instructor, so that you can continue without being dropped.**

What is the overall passing score and passing score for each task?

In order to pass the TPA Cycle 1 the teacher candidate must receive a total score of 19 with only one rubric scored a 1. To pass TPA Cycle 2 the teacher candidate must receive a total score of 21 with only one rubric scored a 1.

What are the procedures for permission slips for students participating in the TPA?

You must obtain permission slips for each student in your class or a copy of a letter from the administration that they have permission slips on file that allows their students to be film and can collect work samples. You will not be allowed to film your TPA Cycles until permissions slips are on file.

What should be retained by the candidate prior to submission of the TPA?

All candidates should keep a copy of all submissions as once you submit

your work (videos, materials, and narratives) it will become the property of the CTC and Pearson as an official document and will not be returned to you. In the event you do not pass a Cycle you will need this material in order to resubmit.

Is there a waiver for the TPA?

Teacher candidates are expected to complete the TPA during their supervised student teaching or internship. However, the TPA Waiver will be available on a very limited basis. Only teacher candidates whose school placement is closed due to Covid and are unable to complete the TPA can use the waiver during the current academic year. Please work with the instructor and the TPA Coordinator if a waiver is needed.

How do I resubmit the task?

Any student who does not pass a cycle will meet with the TPA Coordinator to determine how and when the cycle will be resubmitted to Pearson. This will also require the submission of $150 fee.

Focus Students

Do all three Focus Students be from the same class or period?

YES all three focus students must be in the same class or period you are teaching. If you are unable to find three focus students in the same class or period, you will need to contact the TPA Coordinator and your Program Coordinator so a new placement can be arranged.

I only have re-designated English learners, what do I do for Focus Student 1?

See page 8 of Assessment Guide. You may use a reclassified student as long as the reclassification has occurred in the last three years. Otherwise select a student who needs support for his or her language development. Regardless, it is important to have adaptations.

Funds of Knowledge

How detailed do the funds of knowledge need to be?

It needs to be what the candidate needs to know to plan lessons for the students.

The funds of knowledge should be as detailed as possible relative to how the students’ backgrounds prepare them for the content being taught.

Lesson Plan

How many Content Standards need to be in the lesson?

Depends of the lesson being taught. More does not mean higher scores. However, all Content Standards needs to be written out fully including the explanation of the goal. The number is no longer good enough.

Should I put my name on my lesson plan?

No

Do I need to use the Lesson Plan Template Provided by Pearson?

NO! You can use any lesson plan you wish. In fact, it is often the case using the TPA Lesson Plan Template results in lower scores as not all the elements needed are asked for. In addition, using the lesson plan you already are required to do for your supervisor give you one less thing to do. Why reinvent the wheel when you do not have to.

Videos

Can I teach the lesson for Cycle 1 over multiple days?

No, the lesson is one day complete start to finish lesson that is done in one day. You will teach and film over multiple days during Cycle 2.

Do I upload the whole video and then divide it into the clips?

It needs to be divided into the three five-minute clips before you show it to your mentor and upload into the Pearson Website. If a clip is over five minutes only the first five minutes will be watched, and the rest will be ignored by the assessors.

Suppose a lesson is interrupted by recess/recorder stopped and the lesson gets picked up after recess/recorder starts again.  Can the candidate use clips from that lesson?

Remember that the videos are only 5 minutes.  So, this is ok provided the clip is unedited.

If the candidate's face/head is cut off in the video should they redo the lesson/recording?  .

Candidates and students must be visible in the video recording.

Does any of the video clips need to show the candidate working with the FS students?

This is not absolutely necessary, but it would be helpful in terms of adaptations.

Annotations

Can I talk about something that is not in the video? Example, “Before you see me asking students to gather their materials, I met them at the door and explained what would be happening in the lesson.”

NO, annotating is about what is seen on the video. Annotations that include things not seen in the video are not scored

Can one timestamp, example 1:47-1:52, have more than one annotation?

Yes

Templates

Do I complete the templates right on the Pearson website?

The recommended method for working on templates is to download them and complete them offline. Once completed they can be uploaded, reviewed and submitted to the task (part). Should the candidate later decide to update the template, it can be removed or replaced with a newer version. Submitting templates (or videos) to the task (part) is reversible. This is different from submitting the cycle for scoring. That is not reversible. Once submitted for scoring, a cycle cannot be retrieved.