Frequently Asked Questions

About the

Teaching Performance Assessment

1. 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.

1. Who is required to take the TPA?

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

1. When will I be required to take the TPA?

Each Teacher Candidate will take two tasks of the TPA in the Second and Third Phase of your program. No Teacher Candidate will take a TPA Task in the First Phase of course work?

1. How is the each TPA Task taken?

Teacher Candidates must work independently on each task. Each Teacher Candidate will be asked to sign a Plagiarism Sheet stating that if caught cheating on any part of the exam the Teacher Candidate can be asked to leave their teaching credential program.

1. How do I turn in the TPA?

All TPA tasks are turned in through TaskStream. Each Teacher Candidate must have a valid TaskStream Account when enrolled in a TPA Course. No task will be scored unless it is received via TaskStream and can be returned to the Teacher Candidate’s TaskStream Account.

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

All TPA Tasks are due no later than 11:59PM on the submission day announced for the quarter. No task will be accepted after that time. Teacher candidates will receive no credit for the course and must retake the course the following quarter. In addition, no incomplete tasks are accepted. Teacher Candidates who fail to submit a completed task will receive no credit and will have to retake the course the following quarter.

1. How do I get a TaskStream Account?

All teacher candidates will receive instructions on how to create and pay for a TaskStream account during their first TPA Class.

1. When are the TPA Classes held?

All TPA Classes EELB/ESEC 520A, 520B, 520C and 520D are taught on Saturday mornings. Each class is one hour and they are taught on the Main Campus. Starting in the Winter Quarter of 14 these classes are now simulcast to the Palm Desert Campus so students can attend the classes there and watch via video link**. Attendances at these classes are mandatory** and missing one class can result from a student being removed from the TPA course and not being allowed to submit during that Quarter.

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

All teacher candidates must receive a score of 3 or 4 on each task and an overall score of 12 on each of the four tasks to receive a passing grade on the TPA? Students who receive a score of 1 or 2 on any task can resubmit the task.

1. How do I resubmit the task?

If a teacher candidate has submitted a completed task on time and it has been scored a 1 or 2, the teacher candidate has the option of submitting a rewrite. To do so the Teacher Candidate must register for the TPA Resubmission course. The course is offered through the College of Extended Learning (CEL) and will cost the teacher candidate $175. If a teacher candidate decides not to resubmit they will receive the original score and no credit for the TPA Class.

1. What happens if I get No Credit for my TPA Course?

If you receive a No Credit for your TPA course you may retake the course the following quarter. You must meet with your Coordinator and receive a new program plan.

1. What happens if I again take the TPA course and receive No Credit for a second time?

If teacher candidate receives a No Credit for the same TPA course twice, the teacher candidate must meet with their program coordinator.  Follow the meeting the Coordinator will make a recommendation to the Chair of Teacher Education and Foundation will determine if the student will be allowed to take the course a third and final time. If the decision is yes the candidate will be allowed to register for the class for a final time.  If they do not pass the TPA at the completion of the course or if the student is not allowed to retake the course for a third time the student will be not recommended for a Preliminary Teacher Credential from CSUSB.

1. Who can I contact if I have questions concerning the TPA?

Please Contact Dr. Barry Last, blast@csusb.edu, TPA Lead Assessor, Dr. Mick Verdi mverdi@csusb.edu, TPA Coordinator or Yolanda Thomas ythomas@csusb.edu or call her at 909-537-5650 if you have questions.

1. Is this information repeated anywhere else?

These questions, important dates and information to help you pass the TPA is available on the CSUSB TPA Website: <http://coe.csusb.edu/studentServices/teacherEducation/TPA/index.html>