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Mentoring Teacher Candidates with the edTPA:
Suggestions for Support

What is edTPA?

- edTPA is a preservice assessment process designed by educators to answer the essential question: "Is a new teacher ready for the job?"
- edTPA is designed to measure teacher candidate effectiveness in the classroom by focusing on student learning
- edTPA stands for *Educative Teacher Performance Assessment*, and is required for Illinois Licensure

How is the edTPA Constructed?

- 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
    - reflective commentaries

What Supports Do Candidates Receive at NLU?

- NLU Lesson Plan Template:
    - Uses specific terminology related to edTPA requirements
    - Used throughout the student teaching experience
- Assignments from seminars or methods classes
    - Candidates complete assignments that are aligned to edTPA to prepare them to answer the prompts, collect data, and give student feedback
    - Candidates have opportunities to take and analyze videos of their teaching before edTPA

What is Acceptable Support from Cooperating Teachers?

Patterns of support and mentoring prior to the edTPA set the stage for success in the edTPA. Keep in mind the majority of the actual support for writing the edTPA is provided in seminar. Consult the University Supervisor with any questions.

- Talk about the topic of the edTPA learning segment early in the student teaching experience.
- Ask the candidate about edTPA assignment due dates. Set up an edTPA planning and teaching schedule.
- Make sure to allow time for the candidate to get to know the students. Share any information you have about students 'strengths and needs.
- Provide frequent feedback to both planning and teaching, especially before the edTPA teaching.
- Help the candidate get permissions for the video. You actually can be the one to video their edTPA teaching!

What is not Acceptable Support?

Because the edTPA is a summative assessment tied to licensure, certain supports are not allowed such as:

- Don't edit a candidate's official lesson plans or materials prior to submission, or offer alternative or critiques of the candidate's responses.
- Don't instruct candidates about which video clips to chose for submission.

What are the Video Guidelines?

- Candidates follow the placement school's policies for obtaining the necessary parental/guardian permission or to place those students without permission off-camera. Specific permissions for edTPA need to be collected.
- Candidates submit video clips that do not include the names of the candidate, cooperating teacher, school, district or last name of students.
- Public posting or sharing of videos is prohibited

We thank you for supporting our candidates during student teaching and during the edTPA!