Question 3.6.7 - How does edTPA interact with field experience?

The edTPA is an important assessment during the teaching internship. Candidates create their edTPA portfolios during the second semester of their internship. University faculty and university supervisors are the “first responders” and provide support within SCALE’s guidelines for support candidates. Successful edTPA implementation requires involvement of the entire professional community. To ensure that they are familiar with the requirements of the assessment, all professional education faculty must attend edTPA training every academic year. Faculty members provide assistance to candidates during Senior II seminar courses. Seminar topics include clarification of the edTPA tasks and the unpacking of the rubrics.

The EPP has reached out to clinical faculty in an effort to help them better understand the purpose, process and requirements for the edTPA. The OAA has posted a short video overview to introduce clinical teachers to the assessment. For the past three years, edTPA presentations have been made at the semi-annual Clinical Teachers Conference sponsored by the Office of Teacher Education. Clinical teachers are encouraged to assist their interns within the guidelines mentioned above. Many interns ask their clinical teacher to video record their learning segment (required for Task 2 of the edTPA).

Clinical teachers play an important role in helping the intern acquire parental permission to video record the P-12 students. Clinical teachers with National Board of Professional Teaching Standards certification recognize the similarities between the edTPA portfolio and the one they created for their certification process. As noted in Dashboard COE_1.12—Licensure of University Supervisors and Clinical Teachers, more than 20 percent of all clinical teachers working with EPP teacher candidates during internship are National Board certified. The alignment between edTPA and NBPTS has proven a significant advantage in engaging clinical teachers in the edTPA implementation for candidates during internship.

In most programs, the edTPA is included as a component of the final internship grade, as outlined in the Teacher Education Handbook. The edTPA is worth as much as 30 percent of the grade in some programs. Programs that are new to edTPA implementation (Generations 3 and 4) have not yet included the edTPA in the final internship grade, but plan to do so in the next academic year; see edTPA Implementation Timeline.