

Fall 2020-Spring 2021 CalTPA FAQ

What is the CalTPA?

- CalTPA is an approved summative assessment for multiple and single subject credential programs in California.
- CalTPA is split up into two Cycles, which can be submitted separately. Both must be passed.
- CalTPA was completely redeveloped by the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing then launched for operational use as of fall 2018.
- CalTPA is high stakes, completion of a summative assessment of this nature is required at a state level for a multiple subject or single subject credential.
- Complications from the COVID-19 pandemic may cause some alterations to normal operating procedure per executive orders granted by the governor of California.

How to be successful on a Cycle of the CalTPA?

- Don't procrastinate!
- Read the handbook + the RUBRICS. Be thorough and explicit in responding to each prompt in a manner which meets the details of the rubrics, as missing any rubric requirement may lock your score in the lowest bracket with missing content.
- Show your teaching skills. The CalTPA is an opportunity to showcase all of the high-level teaching techniques you have learned in the credential program.
- Ask for help if confused.
 - If you have content questions consult faculty and CTs, they are here to help.
 - If you have technical questions contact Pamela Dunlap by email.
- Film the entire lesson, and use a video editing software to snag the best 5-minute example of yourself meeting the content required for the rubric. While the video must be continuous and unedited, you have the ability to choose the start and end point of the video segments.

Technical Questions and How to Submit:

- What is the cost of CalTPA? CalTPA costs \$150 per cycle attempt.
- Who scores the CalTPA? CalTPA is scored by trained and calibrated California education professionals qualified in the content area being submitted.
- Where is the CalTPA submitted? Please visit the following website for the registration and payment process, templates, most recent information and materials for the CalTPA. <http://www.ctcpa.nesinc.com/>
- Video and document technical questions should be directed to Pamela Dunlap.

What is the passing threshold for the CalTPA?

The passing score standards for the redeveloped CalTPA as of August 23, 2019 are as follows:

- Cycle 1 (8 rubrics): A final cut score of 19 points with one score of 1 allowed.
- Cycle 2 (9 rubrics): A final cut score of 21 points with one score of 1 allowed.

What happens if you don't pass a Cycle of the CalTPA on your first attempt?

While high stakes, it is NOT the end of the world. Multiple attempts can be made, and you have many resources to help you make another attempt.

All failing scores require the candidate to pay again, register, complete, and submit your next attempt on that Cycle to CalTPA.

- What a non-passing score in a rubric means:

The candidate showed some skill but did not explicitly show the teaching techniques needed to be in charge of a classroom OR the element of the TPA did not meet performance standards as outlined by the rubrics.

- What a non-passing score in a rubric does NOT mean:

That a candidate is unfit to be a teacher or does not have the skills to become a teacher. While the TPA is a high stakes assessment, it is not the only measure of your teaching.

A simple oversight can cause a non-passing score as any missing element in a rubric can cause the score to lock at a very low score no matter how great the rest of the content is. A non-passing rubric is simply mistakes to be addressed, not an assessment of your capability.

- If you must resubmit:

View it as an opportunity to hone your teaching skill and display the techniques you have learned in the credential program in order to meet the passing rubric levels. We have seen students go from a non-passing score to an exemplar score!

If you have any questions or concerns or there is anything we can do to help, please contact your program coordinator, the School of Education office, or Pamela Dunlap.

We want you to be successful and are here to support you. We know the changes we are all experiencing moment by moment due to COVID-19 are complicating everything we do, but even at a distance, we are here to help you. Email me any time!

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