



Processes for Establishing a Student Fee for edTPA

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At the request of the edTPA community, SCALE has compiled descriptions of campus efforts to establish a student fee for edTPA. The eight descriptions are authored by program leaders and represent a cross-section of states and educator preparation program contexts (urban, suburban, private, public, undergraduate and post bac or master's programs). We offer these descriptions as a resource for other programs considering their own student fee.

1. Vanderbilt University and Ohio University

We sought approval from the Dean, and then worked with the Registrar's office and Student Accounts office to establish the equivalent of a lab fee attached to the student teaching seminar for all programs in which edTPA is required. When students register for the course, they are advised of the fee. Because it is charged as part of tuition and fees, students on financial aid end up paying a discounted fee or nothing at all (depending on their aid stipulations).

2. University of Tennessee, Knoxville

As we transitioned from the voluntary field testing phase of implementation of the edTPA to mandatory participation for most teacher candidates at UTK, we considered both student self-pay and lab fee options. Based on both student and faculty preferences, we opted to establish a lab fee to cover the cost of edTPA. Students preferred this approach because the fee would automatically fold into the financial aid system. Faculty did not want students facing the inability to pay the fee in the middle of the semester when submission of edTPA was due. The Departments of Theory and Practice in Teacher Education and Child and Family Studies submitted requests to the Dean of the College of Education, Health, and Human Sciences to assess a \$300 lab fee with their internship courses. We had been using edTPA at no cost during the field testing and faculty unanimously supported adopting it as a program requirement. Faculty agreed that it was serving students well as a part of their preparation and was proving capable of providing insights needed for program improvements. The rationale for the lab fee also included the fact that, as approved by the Tennessee Board of Education, successful performance on edTPA would allow the teacher candidate to be exempt from taking the Praxis Knowing and Learning exam at a cost of \$80. The Dean agreed to approve the lab fee request and advanced it to the Provost's Office where it received final approval. We then went through the process of verifying a sole source agreement (arranged with Pearson, UTK legal counsel and SCALE).

Our students complete a year-long internship, so we have attached the lab fee to the second semester of the internship. The lab fees are deposited into an income account uniquely associated with the specific internship course for which the fee is assessed and the Pearson invoice is paid from an associated expenditure account. We have just



successfully completed our first semester with the lab fee and invoicing from Pearson. We have affirmed that it is critical that students follow all the procedural steps and successfully complete the submission process within the assigned timeframe.

3. University of Cincinnati

We crafted language and submitted a proposal to the Dean, which was forwarded to the Provost. Our rationale to the administration included the fact that beginning with the Fall Semester of 2013, the *Teacher Performance Assessment (edTPA)* would be a program requirement for all candidates seeking an Ohio teaching license at the University of Cincinnati; the fee would not add to the School of Education budget but rather would be used to purchase vouchers from the vendor (Pearson); and that some of our licensure programs used these scores in their SPA reports. We explained that *edTPA* was being used by a number of states and, in some states, the costs were integrated into students' course tuition, similar to a laboratory fee in the hard sciences. We explained that, in these settings, the fee was attached when a student enrolled in a course associated with student teaching. We indicated the specific student teaching numbers that we planned to use. The plan that we outlined in our proposal to the Dean and Provost was to set up an account within the School of Education to capture these fees. We would then pay Pearson the registration fees and Pearson would, in turn, provide us with registration vouchers to distribute to our student teachers. We explained that the assessment fee was consistent with fees for other performance-based assessments. Finally, using information provided by SCALE and Pearson, we explained that the fee supported the costs associated with developing, launching, maintaining, and managing the assessment. This rationale also seemed to be helpful as we talked to our colleagues and our candidates.

Once we received approval, we worked with the Registrar's office and Office of Student Accounts to establish the equivalent of a laboratory fee attached to student teaching in each licensure program (Early Childhood Education, Middle Childhood Education, Special Education and Secondary Education). When our teaching candidates registered for student teaching, the fee was attached to their bill. Since the \$300 fee was part of their tuition and fees, we received very few complaints from our teaching candidates and, like some of the teaching candidates at Vanderbilt, some of our students who were on financial aid paid less than the full amount.

We also developed some internal fee processing arrangements (e.g., collecting fees, checking the fees against class lists, processing the fees, establishing a timeline and a process for paying Pearson for vouchers, distributing vouchers to students). These initial arrangements have been refined as we moved along.

4. Medaille College Buffalo, NY

The teacher candidates who participated in field-testing received a voucher to pay for the cost of the exam. The School of Education was concerned that future teacher candidates would not have the funds to pay the edTPA fee during student teaching. Thus, the Dean of the School of Education met with representatives from the registrar, student accounts, and IT to setup an edTPA fee structure for teacher candidates in summer 2013. Teacher candidates would have the ability to use financial aid to cover the cost under this fee structure.

Teacher candidates at Medaille complete two student teaching placements. Exceptions may occur for candidates pursuing an advanced certification or candidates who need to complete an additional student placement because they did not complete all certification requirements and fall under the new regulations as of April 30, 2014. If teacher candidates register for one student teaching placement course a fee of \$300 is attached to the single placement. If teacher candidates register for two student teaching placements a fee of \$150 is attached to each individual student teaching placement. Each student teaching placement has an individual course number. Teacher candidates are automatically charged when they register for student teaching. Teacher candidates were notified of the fee structure at mandatory orientations at the beginning of each academic year or program start. The fees are deposited into a special account. The college purchases edPTA codes for all teacher candidates registered for student teaching. Teacher candidates receive the edTPA code during the mandatory meeting prior to student teaching. The fee was implemented for the first time spring 2014 when the edTPA became consequence-bearing in New York State.

5. Concordia University, Chicago

The Dean of the College of Education put a plan in place with the registrar and accounting office to establish a lab fee attached to the student teaching internship for all programs in which the edTPA is required. When students register for their student teaching internship, they are advised of the fee. Because the fee for the voucher is charged as part of tuition and fees the cost becomes part of the eligible financial aid package. Depending on a candidate's package they may pay a discounted fee or nothing at all (depending on their aid stipulations). This provides equal support for funding all candidates' costs for the internship and edTPA assessment.

6. American Museum of Natural History, New York, New York

The American Museum of Natural History's MAT Program has a full scholarship model that includes the cost of one each of the certification exams, including edTPA, which is why we purchased vouchers from Pearson. We do not have student fees, so we didn't have to work that into our model.

7. Wright State University, Ohio

After meeting with faculty and speaking with our dean, we completed the university required paperwork to establish a course fee attached to the student teaching seminar for all programs in which edTPA is required. When students are accepted into our programs, they are advised of the fee.

8. Crown College, Minnesota

We obtained approval from the Provost, and then worked with the Registrar's office and Student Billing office to establish a fee that was attached to the first student teaching placement for each program. Students are advised of the fee in the Teacher Education handbook and it is included on their tuition and fees statement when they register for the class. Students who are on financial aid can use their aid to cover this cost depending on the aid they are awarded. The college purchased the vouchers depending on how many students are registered for the student-teaching course.