

**Notre Dame de Namur University
School of Education and Leadership**

**Information on Teacher Performance Assessments
Rev. 9/17/07**

Frequently Asked Questions

What are the Teacher Performance Assessments?

Teacher Performance Assessments (TPAs) are the rigorous evaluations of Multiple Subject (MS) and Single Subject (SS) teacher candidates as required in the 1998 law, known as Senate Bill 2042 (SB 2042). At Notre Dame de Namur University (NDNU), our MS and SS programs aligned with the SB2042 requirements. How TPAs are addressed across universities is among the provisions of the recently passed Senate Bill 1209 (SB 1209) that called for a more standardized approach to assessments.

What is the PACT?

PACT (Performance Assessment for California Teachers) is a consortium of teacher preparation programs at a number of California Universities and NDNU is one of these members. These institutions have joined together to develop a teacher performance assessment. Successful completion of the teaching performance assessment will be required to earn a California Preliminary Multiple Subject or Single Subject Teaching Credential as outlined in SB 1209 passed on September 28, 2006.

The teaching performance assessments consists of Embedded Signature Assignments (ESAs) and the Teaching Event. Together, the Embedded Assessments and the Teaching Event measure all thirteen Teacher Performance Expectations (TPEs). Presently, NDNU does not have ESAs, so only the Teaching Event is required.

Who is required to complete a Performance Assessment for California Teachers Teaching Event (PACT TE) portfolio?

In fall 2007, all candidates who will begin their first semester of student teaching in the Multiple or Single Subject Credential Programs will be given an orientation to PACT and be required to submit a mini-PACT TE as part of their seminar experience. The full PACT TE in its entirety will be required for second semester seminar.

Who is exempt from the PACT TE?

In the pilot year of 2007-2008, all candidates who enter their second semester seminar (ED 330B) in the fall 2007 will not do the PACT TE; however, you will complete the seminar portfolio as normally would happen. For those candidates who were granted a waiver from seminar ED 330A and will be completing ED 330B only, you will be required to complete a PACT TE as part of ED 330B in the spring or thereafter. After July 1, 2008, all candidates in MS and SS must receive a passing score on their assessment as part of the credential requirements.

I heard that the PACT in 2007-2008 is not required for the credential, so why do I have to do the Teaching Event?

Piloting an implementation of PACT helps identify possible pitfalls in the system; however, the components of the PACT Teaching Event are similar to what we have always required in our seminars, so the portfolio requirement is not new. In a sense, PACT replaces the seminar portfolio that you would normally do, so it is not the case that "PACT doesn't have anything to do with your ability to obtain a credential or not"; it does in the sense that PACT is the re-designed portfolio. After July 1, 2008, all candidates in MS and SS must receive a passing score on their assessment as part of the credential requirements. For the students in the PACT pilot year, you must complete the PACT as you would your regular portfolio.

What happens if I don't want to do the PACT TE in my seminar?

PACT replaces the seminar portfolio that you would normally do, so candidates do not have a choice to complete the PACT; PACT is the re-designed portfolio. For the students in the PACT pilot year, you must complete the PACT as you would your regular seminar portfolio.

Who will score the PACT TE?

Trained individuals of the PACT TE will score the portfolios. The identity of the portfolio will be maintained with confidentiality although the video portion may reveal the identity of the candidate.

I heard that there was a new credential student fee, what is this about?

Compliance includes not only the implementation of PACT TE, therefore the **\$200 Teacher Performance Assessment** fee is to help defray the overall costs related to: providing program staff to address credentialing issues of compliance and assessments; address training gaps in these roles; and prepare program documents to meet the new state standards. At NDNU, the cost of compliance is mostly covered by the university with critical support paid by tuition dollars. NDNU is mindful of the burden of the rising cost of education and for this reason have required it be paid only once.

How often will I have to pay the TPA fee?

The *Teaching Performance Assessment* fee is charged as a one time student fee.

Who has to pay the fee?

Since compliance affects all program components, **all candidates** in the Multiple and Single Subject Credential Program will be required to pay the fee regardless of when they initially enrolled.

Will candidates know the scores received on the PACT TE?

The scores for PACT will be recorded as pass or fail. A passing score on the teaching performance assessment is required on or after July 1, 2008 as part of the credential requirements.

Where can I go online to access more information about the state requirements?

- Information regarding the requirement for implementation of teaching performance assessments pursuant to SB 2042: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/030005/030005.pdf>
- Information regarding Senate Bill 1209 (includes 30 provisions of the Education Code): <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/educator-prep/SB1209/>
- Information regarding the changes in Program Standards for Multiple and Single Subject Programs: <http://www.ctc.ca.gov/notices/coded/0710/0710.pdf>
- Information on PACT: <http://www.pactpa.org/>

Who can I contact for any questions or concerns about this fee?

Contact the director of credentials, Laty Johnson, at credentials@ndnu.edu or at (650) 508-3545. Her office location is St. Mary's Hall, Room 107. You can also contact the Dean, Dr. Joanne Rossi, at (650) 508-3613.