

edTPA Video Recording Instruction Tips

Record in 640x480 resolution. This is not meant to be a feature film, so HD is not necessary. Recording in 640x480 saves memory space, allows you to record for longer periods of time, and greatly reduces the time for uploading, downloading, and editing later. Many phones and tablets do not let you adjust the resolution. If this is the case, record with the front facing camera (the one looking at you when you are looking at the screen). It usually records in a lower resolution than the back camera.

Many teacher candidates request that another teacher and/or supervisor record for them. If you decide to have someone record for you, make sure you go over this document with him/her. You want to make sure the person recording understands what you need to capture. Remind the person recording you need a continuous clip of your teaching and not short, interrupted pieces. Most edTPA handbooks will ask for you to submit a 15-20 minute continuous teaching segment. (Check your handbook for directions on how long the clip needs to be as each handbook is different.) The person recording can move around the room while they are recording as it is not required that the camera be static.

In most cases, and particularly if you do not have a person recording for you, use a tripod. There are very few substitutes for the reliability and adaptability of a tripod. If you do not have a tripod, we have them for checkout in the Malone Center.

Student interaction and you interacting with students is an important focus of the edTPA. You don't have to capture an entire class when you record as this could reduce sound quality. You can set the camera up to see one group of the class and not the entire class. This will increase the opportunity to capture student responses and interactions with you, other students and the activity. The farther away from you the tripod is, the more diminished audio quality will be. Audio is at least as, if not more, important than video.

Keep in mind that your voice will typically carry farther than your students' voices, so consider placing your camera and tripod closer to students than yourself if you do not have an external microphone.

Pearson requires the teacher candidate's face to show as much as possible to verify the candidate is the one teaching the lesson.

Make sure that your device has enough memory to record a class session. Most video recording devices display how long they can record for before running out of memory.

If it is at all possible, keep your recording device plugged into a power source while recording. Running out of power is one of the most frequent and preventable video recording mistakes. Double and triple check to make sure that you have hit the record button. This is another one of the most frequent and preventable video recording mistakes.

Set your camera up in such a way that you do not have a window or bright light source directly behind you. This is called backlighting and it can create flares of light that make it difficult to view the intended subject.