

1. About the graduate teacher performance assessment

What is the Graduate Teacher Performance Assessment?

The Graduate Teacher Performance Assessment (GTPA) is an integrated assessment that connects the academic program and the professional experience, and in so doing connects research, theory and practice. The GTPA is a single culminating authentic summative assessment undertaken in a final-year professional experience placement. It includes five practices: planning, teaching, assessing, reflecting and appraising. It provides evidence of preservice teachers' competence for classroom practice and their ability to meet the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers at the Graduate level (AITSL, 2011).

Why has the GTPA been developed?

In a move to strengthen initial teacher education (ITE) programs, the Education Council, comprising all Australian Education Ministers, endorsed the revised national Accreditation of Initial Teacher Education Programs in Australia: Standards and Procedures in December 2015. Program Standard 1.2 requires that 'pre-service teachers ... have successfully completed a final-year teaching performance assessment prior to graduation' (p. 10).

The GTPA is an authentic, research-informed teacher performance assessment developed to:

- meet the new national requirement for all preservice teachers to undertake an authentic culminating summative assessment to demonstrate professional readiness. As indicated below, the official Trial of the GTPA was completed and the report accepted by AITSL in 2017.
- enable preservice teachers in their final year to demonstrate their ability to engage with the full cycle of teaching practice.
- enable preservice teachers to demonstrate the impact

their teaching has had on student learning.

- incorporate planning, teaching, assessing, reflecting on and appraising teaching practices as an integrated process.
- align with existing state based practices and partnerships between universities, teacher employers and other education stakeholders.
- respond to and align with the Graduate Teacher Standards.

How does the GTPA work in different professional experience contexts and across early years, primary, secondary, or special education sites?

The GTPA is designed to enable any preservice teacher to demonstrate authentically the planning, teaching, assessing, reflecting and appraising of teaching practices regardless of school context, year level of teaching, discipline or speciality. This includes a primary teaching specialisation, a teaching major in secondary education, or teaching in a special education site.

The objective of the GTPA is to enable preservice teachers to demonstrate their ability to engage with the full cycle of teaching practice in a final-year professional experience placement.

Fact sheet - Schools and supervising teachers

How does the GTPA fit within the classroom planning and teaching?

The GTPA learning sequence or unit of work undertaken by the preservice teacher is part of the overall planned teaching, learning and assessment for the term (Diagram 1).

Preservice teachers will develop and implement a learning sequence or unit of work, with accompanying assessments for formative and summative purposes. Completing the GTPA involves the collection and use of evidence of a range of types. Evidence is used to 1) inform teaching, 2) monitor student learning, and 3) gauge the effectiveness of teaching and its impact on student learning.

Student learning is at the core of the GTPA. In completing the GTPA, preservice teachers focus on whole class teaching and differentiated practice. To demonstrate differentiation in whole class contexts, the preservice teacher identifies three focus students to represent the range of achievement levels in the class. The preservice teacher presents evidence of practices they implemented to remove barriers to student learning. The connections between theory and practice form part of this evidence.

In addition, the GTPA includes two purposefully selected scenarios (actual teaching and learning episodes/events/incidents) that illustrate pedagogic decisions that informed teaching strategies. The scenarios are to demonstrate 1) whole class teaching, and 2) teaching to meet the learning needs of individuals and small groups.

What kind of student data and evidence supports completion of the GTPA?

The student data and evidence of learning that preservice teachers collect, analyse and use for the GTPA is of the range and type that the classroom teacher accesses to

inform decisions about planning for optimal student learning. This may include data and evidence for diagnostic, formative and summative purposes, and for whole class, small group and individual teaching. Please note that in using this data and evidence to inform their teaching decisions, preservice teachers are bound by professional codes of conduct, including confidentiality.

What makes this an authentic assessment?

In completing the GTPA, preservice teachers are required to align curriculum, assessment and pedagogy, and teach general capabilities including literacy and numeracy as part of the requirements in the Australian Curriculum.

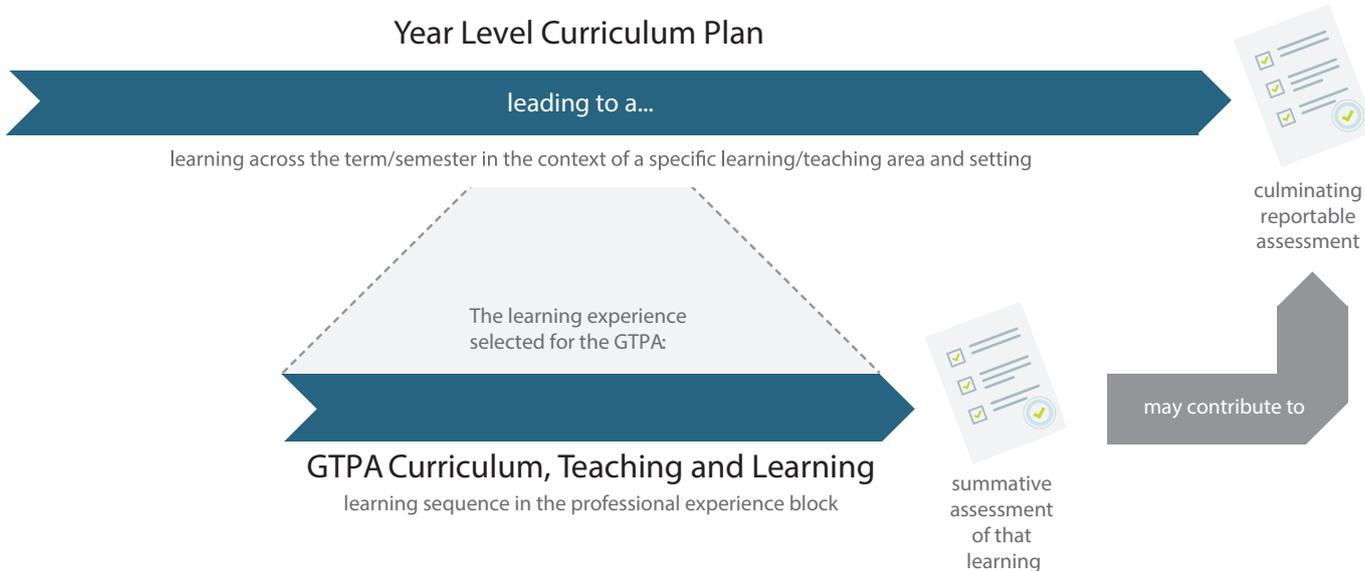
The assessment is authentic in the way it addresses:

1. preservice teachers' curriculum decision-making and pedagogic practices based on student data and evidence of learning; and
2. the learning experience for both the preservice teacher and their students.

The objective of the GTPA is to enable preservice teachers to demonstrate their ability to engage with the full cycle of teaching practice in a final-year professional experience placement. They will be required to interpret a range of data and evidence of learning to inform practice. They will also modify teaching and assessment practices according to their students' specific learning needs. Throughout the process of completing the GTPA, preservice teachers reflect on the effectiveness of their practice and identify its impact on student learning.

Diagram 1: Relationship of the GTPA to classroom learning context

Diagram 1 illustrates the relationship between the classroom context, Year level curriculum plan and the GTPA learning sequence. It also shows the relationship between the teaching, learning and assessing cycle, including the summative assessment implemented in the GTPA, and the culminating reportable assessment that is a part of the class and school program.



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How does this assessment fit with other evidence of preservice teachers' skills? Are all Graduate Teacher Standard descriptors addressed in the GTPA?

The GTPA incorporates Graduate Teacher Standard descriptors aligned to the teaching cycle in interrelated, authentic ways.

The assessment covers 23 descriptors (Table 1) and 13 additional descriptors dependent on the professional experience context. Please note that the GTPA Preservice Teacher Booklet addresses responsibilities for meeting APST 7.1.

The GTPA will complement academic course work and professional experience reports within the accredited program in providing multiple opportunities for preservice teachers to meet all descriptors at the Graduate level.

How does the GTPA meet Program Standard 1.2?

The GTPA is aligned with the National Program Standards, with a specific focus on Program Standard 1.2. This standard requires preservice teachers to undertake an assessment that focuses on the interrelated elements of classroom practice – planning, teaching, assessing and reflecting. The Graduate Teacher Standards are embedded within the GTPA.

The GTPA offers a set of clear, measurable and justifiable achievement criteria for assessing performance. This approach is combined with internal moderation and cross-institutional moderation for comparability purposes.

In 2019, in order to meet PS 1.2, the following conditions must be satisfied to assure the fidelity of the GTPA.

1. The GTPA is a summative assessment to be completed in a final year, sustained professional experience placement of four weeks duration (minimum).
2. The GTPA is to be undertaken in one class with a focus on a single learning/teaching area. It presents preservice teachers' practices in a significant learning sequence taught across the duration of the professional experience placement. The learning sequence is to be implemented across a series of lessons that have clearly defined learning goals.
3. In responding to the GTPA, preservice teachers present their practice in the teaching, learning, and assessing cycle in a whole class context, and with differentiation for small group and individual learners.
4. The GTPA is to be completed as an integrated, intact assessment giving preservice teachers an opportunity to link the specified GTPA practices of planning, teaching, assessing, reflecting and appraising.
5. The completed GTPA is a single submission, that is, it is not to be submitted in parts.
6. Preservice teachers submit their completed GTPA within two weeks of concluding a final year professional experience placement.
7. On submission, the completed GTPA is to be accompanied by the preservice teacher's signed declaration that it is their own original work, undertaken over the full course of the professional experience placement, and not previously submitted for credit in their university or elsewhere. Where other materials (e.g., commercial materials, resources developed by supervising teacher and other school staff) are included, they are acknowledged and appear in the references.
8. Assessment (scoring and internal moderation) of completed GTPAs is to be undertaken by teacher educators with relevant discipline knowledge and pedagogic expertise.

Table 1: GTPA coverage of the APSTs

Covered

- 1.1 Physical, social, and intellectual development and characteristics of students
- 1.2 Understand how students learn
- 1.3 Students with diverse linguistic, cultural, religious and socioeconomic backgrounds
- 1.5 Differentiate teaching to meet the specific learning needs of students across the full range of abilities
- 2.1 Content and teaching strategies of the teaching area
- 2.2 Content selection and organisation
- 2.3 Curriculum, assessment and reporting
- 2.5 Literacy and numeracy strategies
- 2.6 Information and Communication Technology (ICT)
- 3.1 Establish challenging learning goals
- 3.2 Plan, structure and sequence learning programs
- 3.3 Use teaching strategies
- 3.4 Select and use resources
- 3.5 Use effective classroom communication
- 3.6 Evaluate and improve teaching programs
- 4.1 Support student participation
- 4.2 Manage classroom activities
- 5.1 Assess student learning
- 5.2 Provide feedback to students on their learning

- 5.3 Make consistent and comparable judgements
- 5.4 Interpret student data
- 5.5 Report on student achievement
- 6.4 Apply professional learning and improve student learning

Dependent on context

- 1.4 Strategies for teaching Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander students
- 1.6 Strategies to support full participation of students with disability
- 2.4 Understanding and respecting Aboriginal and Torres Strait Islander histories, cultures and languages
- 3.7 Engage parents/carers in an educative process
- 4.3 Practical approaches to managing challenging behaviour
- 4.4 Strategies that support students' well-being and safety
- 4.5 Support the safe, responsible and ethical use of ICT in learning and teaching
- 6.1 Role of the Australian Professional Standards for Teachers in identifying professional learning needs
- 6.2 Engage in professional learning and improve practice
- 6.3 Engage with colleagues and improve practice
- 7.2 Understand the relevant policies and processes
- 7.3 Working effectively, sensitively and confidentially with parents/carers
- 7.4 Understand the role of external professionals and community representatives

Fact sheet - Schools and supervising teachers

2. GTPA implementation – roles and responsibilities

Who is responsible for assessing the GTPA?

Although the GTPA is undertaken during a final-year professional experience placement, responsibility for assessment of the GTPA rests with the higher education institution (HEI). The GTPA is graded by teacher educators within the HEI. It is complementary to, but separate from, the Professional Experience Report.

What is the role of the supervising teacher regarding the GTPA?

The GTPA constitutes the core planning, teaching and assessing work of the preservice teacher. It should not involve additional administrative or workload responsibilities for teachers and schools. The role for the supervising teacher is consultative and advisory in nature. It could include, for example, assisting the preservice teacher to select student data and evidence representing the range of capabilities in the class and the relevant achievement standards. It also includes engagement in moderation discussions to review preservice teacher use of standards and criteria, as used in the school context. If there are any contextual issues that may preclude preservice teachers from fully completing the GTPA, the HEI should be notified.

What communication should schools receive from HEIs prior to preservice teachers undertaking their final-year professional experience?

It is expected that HEIs will undertake timely discussions with their partner schools to communicate the purpose of the GTPA and the timing of the assessment in the approved program. Roles and responsibilities will be explained and clarified to assure school personnel that the GTPA is not an additional workload demand, but rather a part of the further strengthening of ITE programs.

3. GTPA and program accreditation

What was the outcome of the 2017 Trial?

The Trial of the GTPA was completed successfully in 2017. The Trial included the validation of the instrument, standard setting, moderation, and the setting of the cut-score (minimum acceptable level).

Has the GTPA been reviewed by the National Expert Panel?

The National Expert Panel, convened by the Australian Institute for Teaching and School Leadership (AITSL), has reviewed the GTPA and supporting Trial evidence. The Panel endorses the GTPA as meeting the requirements necessary for satisfying Program Standard 1.2, if implemented as intended. The GTPA is now available for implementation by Australian Higher Education Institutions, consistent with conditions established by ACU.



The GTPA is aligned with the National Program Standards. Graduate Teacher Standards are embedded within the GTPA.

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