

Teacher Work Sample Changes and Rationale

The teacher work sample was first implemented in 2003 and is executed during Student Teaching I. The Capstone experience was implemented in 2010 and is typically executed one year prior to student teaching. The Capstone experience, associated with Educ 461 and Educ 470, introduces our students to the Understanding by Design planning paradigm and equips them for success in planning units in this way. Once students completed the Capstone experience and the coursework in Educ 461 and Educ 470, the teacher work sample during Student Teaching I seemed like a step backwards in unit planning expectations. It lacked the overarching planning and assessment expectations that the UbD model highlights in order to achieve conceptual understanding for students. The teacher work sample changes reflect the UbD model and require students to do pre/post assessment analysis to determine student learning growth. The combination of these two components in the new teacher work sample increases the expectations for our student teachers and requires them to reflect heavily on the teaching/learning process. We feel that the teacher work sample changes demonstrate consistency in expectations and planning paradigms within the education program, creating a more fluid experience for our students.

The changes in the format and expectations will be implemented beginning in the fall of 2012.