

# SUU Field Services NEWSLETTER

*College of Education and Human Development*

March 2021



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Visit our Student Teaching [\*\*Web page\*\*](#) for Electronic forms, Handbook, Professional Development/Career opportunities, and PPAT resources.  
[\*\*Spring 2021 Student Teacher Responsibilities Checklist\*\*](#) for Students, Mentor Teachers, and Supervisors to help you keep track of deadlines.

## Reminders:

**March 23 4:00 pm Room 206 or via Zoom** PPAT Workshop for Student Teachers Task 4

**March 25 12:00 pm Room 206** PPAT Workshop for Education Supervisors Task 4/Task 2 and 3 grading

## Article Review

1. One thing to learn during your Student Teaching is to use your resources! Take a look at this [\*\*BLOG\*\*](#) on the benefits of teacher collaboration.
2. PPAT HELPS from GoReact:

### Review Writing Styles

Every task of the ETS PPAT assessment requires some form of a written response. Help your students crush their assessment by reviewing writing skills and styles. As described in the [\*\*handbook\*\*](#), the ETS PPAT assessment encourages the use of three kinds of writing: descriptive, analytic, and reflective.

**Descriptive Writing** Candidates should use the descriptive writing style when asked to explain detailed information. Descriptive writing should be precise and include every element of whatever is being described.

**Analytic Writing** Analytical writing is used to show the significance of the evidence submitted. It should show raters the thought processes candidates used to arrive at conclusions made about a teaching situation or event.

**Reflective Writing** Reflective writing allows candidates to think about what did and did not occur during a teaching event. Candidates should use reflective writing to decide how to approach similar situations in the future.

### Use the Ancillary Materials

After reviewing writing styles, instructors should guide candidates in locating and using online resources. The [\*\*ancillary materials\*\*](#) were created for teacher candidates, EPP instructors, and cooperating teachers. The materials include a glossary, lesson plan format, daily reflection form, and professional growth plan.

**Glossary** The [\*\*glossary\*\*](#) includes over 60 essential terms for candidates to know in order to pass the ETS PPAT assessment. **Lesson Plan Format** The [\*\*lesson plan format\*\*](#) helps candidates organize and develop lesson plans in order to meet students' needs. This tool can be used for tasks 2, 3, and 4.

**Daily Reflection Form** The [\*\*daily reflection form\*\*](#) was designed to improve instructional practices by having candidates self-reflect on their teaching practices.

**Professional Growth Plan** The [\*\*professional growth plan\*\*](#) helps candidates facilitate a continuous growth and learning process.

**Source:** Abby WilsonAbby works with the content marketing team at GoReact. (2020, June 16). 5 ways to support ETS PPAT CANDIDATES. Retrieved March 03, 2021, from <https://blog.goreact.com/2020/05/06/support-ets-ppat-candidates/>

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## Frequently Asked Questions:

### Do I have to make up my 3 excused absences?

Yes, in the student teaching handbook it states, "Regular attendance is required for each day of your student teaching experience. Should you experience the need to be absent for illness or an emergency you are required to call your mentor teacher and the school office to notify them. You are also required to call the Field Service Office at (435) 865-8685 and leave a message as to the reason for the absence. In general, you are allowed to miss 3 days during your student teaching for excused absences. Should you need to miss more than those allowed 3 days, you will need to provide a doctor's note or get permission from the Dean's office. **Any and all days missed must be made up.**" If you have a situation you would like to discuss, please call Laureen Graves at the number mentioned above.

### When does Iron County have Spring Break?

March 15-16 no school (check with your building to see if the staff is required to be there)

April 5-9 (Spring Break)

### What happens if I fail my PPAT?

We are ready and willing to help you **ALL** pass. If you have an area that needs resubmission we will help you with some suggestions and you may resubmit to your supervisor. As long as you are doing the work and making necessary changes you will pass. Task 1 is being graded and you should hear from your supervisor by mid-March. Those officially submitting: During the resubmission window, you may be eligible to register to resubmit responses to Tasks 2, 3, and/or 4 if you were not able to obtain the passing score for the assessment. For more information about resubmissions, refer to [Resubmitting Your Tasks.](#)

### Are there any more job fairs?

Fairs are posted on our SUU Student Teaching Webpage.

Students, Graduates, Educators in Transition! Virtually connect with school districts from across the country! Apply for positions from the comfort of your home. Registration for Educator Candidates is FREE! [See a list of registered recruiters!](#) Join us Thursday, March 11th from 12:00 - 4:00 PM CT. A great opportunity to build employment connections and prepare for a career in education. Employers are eager to share information with you about their district. Join us to learn about available positions in districts from all over. Learn about company culture and even speak to a district representative. Enjoy all the benefits of attending a career fair from wherever you are.

## What I Wish I'd Known as a New Teacher

A veteran offers essential advice for new teachers and the colleagues who support them. By Elena Aguilar

October 20, 2014 Updated August 11, 2015

It's been two decades since my first year in the classroom. I reflect on that time and wish I'd known a few things about myself, about teaching, and about my students. Some of what I wish I'd known could have been shared with me—some I just had to live and learn. So I offer this reflection both for new teachers as well as for those who support them. If you work with a new teacher, I'm hoping you might stop by their room in the next few days and share some insights from your own experience. And if you're a new teacher, I'm hoping these reflections might help you feel validated, hopeful, and resourceful.

**1. This will get better.** The first year of teaching is so, so hard. You don't even know why it's so hard—you can't wrap your head around that because you're in survival mode. It's so hard because you're being asked to push your heart and mind and body in ways you never have. You're making thousands of decisions each day, and there are big parts of you that know you don't know what you're doing. So you question the decisions you're making each day—and questioning is good, it is, but that questioning also makes you feel tired and insecure. It will get better. You're just overloaded. You're learning so much—I know you can't even recognize this because you're so tired, but it'll sink in as the months pass. Nothing will ever be as hard as the first year.

**2. Always work from the heart.** If your actions and words emerge from the heart, you can't make too many mistakes. Let yourself love your students; don't be afraid of falling in love with them. That's the path to take as a new teacher. Get to know them, indulge your curiosity, spend time learning about who they are as human beings—the rest will follow.

**3. They will remember this about you.** Your students will remember how you made them feel, whether they felt loved and cared for by you. I know this: I'm in touch with dozens of former students who were among the first groups of kids I taught. They remember my love for them in various ways; they don't remember the lessons that I botched, or that I didn't return their homework within a promised two days, or my disorganization. When I listen to what they remember, I hear that it was my love for them—and I did love them, deeply.

**4. Be open to surprises.** Students will surprise you—they will learn things you didn't think they could learn, they will grow in ways you didn't expect. You might think that a particular student will struggle later on (he's already been retained in second grade, can't spell his own name, and clearly has a learning disability). Then 10 years later you might find yourself at his high school graduation hearing that he's been accepted to art college, and there'll be tears ruining your makeup and you didn't bring tissues and when he sees you he grins and gives you a huge hug and says, "Ms. Aguilar, I'm so glad you came." You'll still be crying and telling him how proud you are. It will truly be one of the most joyful days of your life. He was also in your classroom that first year, when you thought you'd ruined them all. "You were really nice to me and you encouraged me to draw," he says, and you beam.

**5. Find a coach.** Find someone who can support your growth, someone who has training to be a coach, someone who will observe you and give you feedback and help you fulfill the vision you have for yourself as a teacher. You won't be able to figure this all out on your own. You can't see what you can't see. You don't know what you need to know. Ask for a coach, beg, search out all possible options—and find someone to help you grow.

**6. And if you can't find a coach... Move.** Find another school. I'm serious. Find a place where someone will support you in your growth as a teacher. OK, if it can't be a coach, settle for a mentor, perhaps an administrator who will commit to supporting you in a non-evaluative way, or find a partner-teacher who might be a mentor, or a professional learning community of teachers who observe each other. You won't be able to guide your own development by yourself—the weekly (if you're lucky) or annual professional development won't be enough.

As a new teacher, you need a lot of feedback and support. Don't stop searching out support until you get it. If you feel like you're learning and increasingly meeting the needs of your students, you'll feel good. You'll stay. And kids need teachers who stay. The first year (like a first love) has so many highs and lows, and I still get both dreamy-eyed and panicky when I remember the 1995–96 school year. Capture this year, share stories with people you trust, and then in 20 years, look back and write yourself a "What I Wish I'd Known" letter.

**Source:** Abby WilsonAbby works with the content marketing team at GoReact. (2020, June 16). 5 ways to support ETS PPAT CANDIDATES. Retrieved March 03, 2021, from <https://blog.goreact.com/2020/05/06/support-ets-ppat-candidates/>