



National Board Certification 2009-2010

“The National Board for Professional Teaching Standards is rooted in the belief that the single most important action this country can take to improve schools and student learning is to strengthen teaching.”

Educ. 457, National Board Preparation Part I (Fall quarter) and Educ. 458, National Board Preparation Part II (Winter quarter) are optional credit courses designed to support National Board Certification candidates to prepare for portfolio submission and assessment center activities. Candidates are independently responsible for meeting the requirements for certification. Course facilitators and peer colleagues provide a structure that is designed to support candidates as they progress.

Educ. 457, National Board Preparation Part I (3 credits, S/U grading) requirements:

- Candidates must attend scheduled class meetings (exceptions only if discussed with facilitator and excused)
- By the first Friday in December, submit a draft of your written commentaries for Entry 4. This might not be your final draft but it should be a “refined” draft. Most facilitators will expect the work to be submitted electronically in a Word document with margins and headings as specified in your National Board directions. You can arrange to submit hard copies if your facilitator agrees.

Educ. 458, National Board Preparation Part II (3 credits, S/U grading) requirements:

- Candidates must attend scheduled class meetings (exceptions only if discussed with facilitator and excused)
- By the fourth Friday in January, submit a draft of a second written commentary for another portfolio entry, preferably one that requires a videotape that you and a facilitator have watched together.
- Submit NBPTS portfolio and Assessment Center appointment receipts to your facilitator by April 9th.

Facilitators can't know or take the time to look up the requirements for each certificate area and entry, but they must compare your drafts to those requirements. **Therefore, each entry submitted MUST be accompanied by these two clarifying documents:**

1. The standards – in your own words – that you are trying to meet in the entry, and
2. A summary of the scoring guidelines for the entry – again in your own words

Stating the standards and scoring guidelines in your own words serves as a check to be sure that you understand what the entry is designed to prove.

It will be helpful if you give your facilitator information about the feedback you hope to receive. For example, “Read to see that my evidence for each standard is clear and convincing” or “Read to see that my writing is descriptive, analytical, and reflective in the appropriate places.”

Additional important dates:

- March 5th is the last date to send an entry to a facilitator for feedback
- A completed portfolio must be at National Boards by March 31st.
- By April 9th, you must send your facilitator a copy of the confirmation of receipt and portfolio completion that is posted on your NBPTS web page or a copy of the hard copy that is sent to you by NBPTS.
- Also by April 9th, you must send your facilitator a copy of your Assessment Center appointment time.

You can make the appointment any time after you have paid the second half of your fees. You are urged to schedule your testing time early so that you are assured of a date that best fits your schedule. We also strongly suggest that you test after you have completed your portfolio. By then you will be well versed in your standards and better able to demonstrate your knowledge. You may not take any materials with you to the testing center.

To recap – for satisfactory grades you must:

- ✓ Attend scheduled meetings
- ✓ Submit a draft of Entry 4 by the first Friday in December
- ✓ Submit a second entry draft accompanied by its standards and scoring guides by the fourth Friday in January
- ✓ Send a NBPTS portfolio receipt to your facilitator by April 9th
- ✓ Send a copy of your Assessment Center appointment time receipt to your facilitator by April 9th

And the day came when the risk it took to remain tight inside the bud was more painful than the risk it took to blossom.

[Anais Nin](#)