Using Qualtrics™ to Monitor Student Teacher Progress

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Introduction

- The student teaching process is a capstone experience for agricultural education students (Myers & Dyer, 2004; Smalley, Retallick, & Paulsen, 2015).
- The student teaching process causes change within the student (Smith & Rayfield, 2017).
- High workloads placed on student teachers may be causing early burnout, impacting their decision to enter the field (Fives, Hammon, & Olivarez, 2007).
- Torres and Ulmer (2007) and Robinson, Krysher, Haynes, and Edwards (2010) identified different areas student teachers spend their time related to classroom instruction.
- Many of the above areas were found to be important to student teachers (Paulsen, Smalley, & Retallick, 2016).

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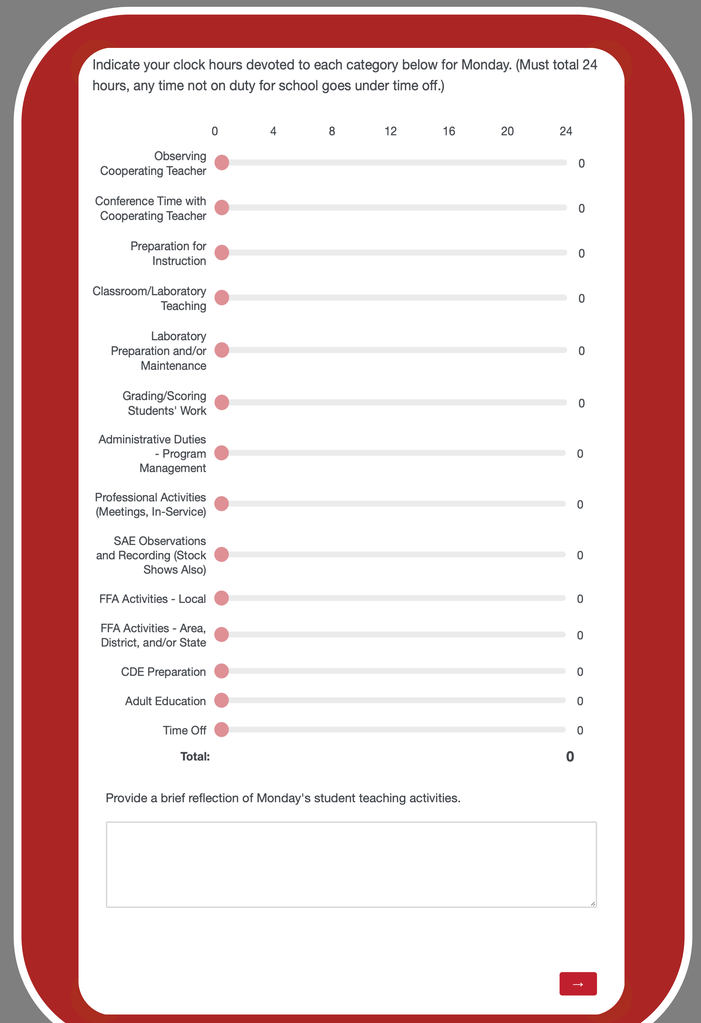
Need for Innovation

- Texas Tech University has student teachers complete weekly reports summarizing activities taking place during the student teaching experience in an attempt to identify when changes take place.
- For the past two years students were writing weekly reports and emailing them to their university supervisor.
- Written reports were a large amount of work to compile and analyze.
- The spring 2019 student teaching cohort (*n*=22) used Qualtrics™ to more accurately collect weekly data on hours spent doing agricultural education teacher activities and provide opportunity for reflection.
- This form of programmatic evaluation could easily be used by other teacher preparation programs.

Methodology/How it Works/Program Phases

- Develop a Qualtrics™ survey with two questions for each day of the week and the weekend.
- A sliding bar is used for each of the categories with a maximum total value of 24 hours set for each day using the constant sum function.
- Survey should be designed so that it can be accessed daily and submitted at the conclusion of the week.
- The survey should be sent out to the student teachers every Monday during each week of the student teaching process using Qualtrics™ software to distribute the survey through the students' university email with a reminder email on Sunday afternoon.
- A new survey for each week is easily made by using the copy feature in Qualtrics™.
- All data is easily exported into Microsoft Excel or SPSS where it can be analyzed and distributed to all university supervisors.



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Future Plans/Advice to Others

- Texas Tech University will continue to us Qualtrics™ to collect programmatic data on student teachers.
- We plan on expanding the weekly survey to include self-efficacy data on the activities and monitor their intention to teach.
- We advise others to explain the purpose of the data collection to student teachers before they start their experience.
- Clear explanations of what each activity category consists of is necessary for the student teachers.
- Make the weekly report a course requirement.

Costs/Resources Needed

- Qualtrics™ is free to our department.
- Other free online survey software could be used.
- A computer with internet connection and Microsoft Excel or SPSS is necessary.
- A person is needed to monitor the data collection process, export data, and create reports for about 15 minutes per week.

Results to Date/Implications

- All student teachers from the 2019 student teaching cohort (*n*=22) have recorded 15 weeks of data using the online Qualtrics™ survey.
- The weekly reports generated from Qualtrics™ have allowed the university supervisors to monitor student teacher successes and difficulties.
- The constant sum function has improved accuracy of time reporting from previous years.
- The use of Qualtrics™ has provided a consistent way of collecting programmatic data on student teachers that can be employed for future cohorts.
- Qualtrics™ has provided a clear way to see how student teachers spend their time during their experience and how this changes throughout the process.

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