



# Why Are We Using TaskStream?

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Many students enrolled at Northern Arizona University's College of Education are required to purchase subscriptions to TaskStream, a third-party vendor of electronic portfolio software. So you may be asking yourself, "Why are we using TaskStream?"

- 1) *It's a tool of the trade.* We at the College of Education strive to model real-world educational tools that future teachers can continue to use well into their professional careers. TaskStream provides a comprehensive suite of education-specific "trade tools" that are being utilized throughout our academic programs, all Arizona state teacher preparation programs, and education communities nationwide. TaskStream has unique education-specific features such as the ability to track formative and summative assessment activities, facilitate collaboration on standards-based lesson plans, and provide a simple means of web-publishing that does not require any programming.
- 2) *It can help you get a job.* TaskStream allows future educators to create a "Professional Portfolio" with a unique Internet address (URL) that can be included on a resume. Professional portfolios that contain standards-based lesson plans and classroom activities can help put your resume at the top of the stack! At the end of your academic program, you will have a consolidated body of work that represents your accomplishments throughout your coursework and field experiences.
- 3) *It can help improve the quality of your work.* TaskStream provides a dialogue between the student and teacher where students can seek feedback on their assignments before submitting them for evaluation (a.k.a. grading). Through TaskStream, students can easily share and collaborate on work with classmates, mentor teachers, or university instructors to make sure their academic work is meeting or exceeding expectations.
- 4) *The price is right!* At the College of Education, we consider electronic portfolio software to be a modern tool of the trade, one that will be becoming an essential tool of Pre K-12 educators across Arizona and the rest of the United States. A two-year subscription that covers your entire program of study costs \$55 (with the \$10 discount), which breaks down to about \$3 per class...much less than a standard textbook!

Don't forget, NAU College of Education students are eligible to receive a \$10 discount on any length of subscription or renewal to TaskStream. For more information about how NAU's College of Education is using TaskStream and how to sign-up, please visit the electronic portfolio project website: <http://portfolio.coe.nau.edu>.

