

University of South Alabama
Teacher Leader Program
Analysis Form

(3) Program Requirements. *Each State-approved program must:*
(b) Include periodic focus sessions for candidates to share problem-based concerns and successes and to collaborate on issues and solutions.

Each semester prospective Teacher Leader candidates will participate in focus sessions that are designed to facilitate candidates' coming together as a professional learning community to share relevant issues related to the Teacher Leader Program. These issues may address specific problem-based concerns, successes, course reflections, program artifacts, clarification of specific learning assignments related to academic coursework, or other aspects of the teacher leader program relevant.

The focus sessions will be conducted primarily using the University of South Alabama's online learning management system (Sakai). Participation is mandatory. Each Teacher Leader Participant will join the online focus group. In addition, face to face seminars will also be required.

The use of online learning management systems and social media are pervasive and represent powerful learning tools. Teacher Leaders will learn how to incorporate technology in their learning and leadership and will also learn responsible use of emerging technologies.

The USA Teacher Leaders group has been established as a private Sakai project site to allow synchronous chats, posting of videos and graphics, the creation and editing of online documents, and establishing specific events for members of the USA Teacher Leader group.

Through the use of focus sessions, Teacher Leader candidates will extend their scholarship in academic coursework to clinical field experiences, demonstrate leadership skills in an authentic context, and collaborate in a self-perpetuating professional community with like-minded learners. More experienced prospective Teacher Leaders will have an opportunity to provide informal mentoring to less experienced candidates. Focus session participants will have an ongoing forum in which to test learning hypotheses, exchange ideas, and develop research topics and strategies.

The focus sessions will be moderated by core program faculty and advanced Teacher Leader candidates.

In addition to the use of online groups and face to face seminars, focus sessions may, from time to time, engage in a Teacher Leader Scholar Seminar sponsored by core program faculty. These seminars will feature recognized educational leaders from local, state, regional, or national organizations and institutions.