

Purpose of Student Teaching

Welcome to student teaching! This is the capstone experience of teacher preparation. Courses in teacher education have presented the Teacher Candidate with a variety of ideas and opportunities to learn about teaching. Now it is time to put your knowledge, skills and experiences to practice.

Appalachian State University teacher candidates can be found in diverse settings from rural North Carolina to urban and international locations. A sincere effort is made to give the Teacher Candidate as diverse an experience as possible.

Student teaching is designed for complete immersion into the profession. From the very first day at school Teacher Candidates are expected to become engaged, even in minor ways, in the work of teaching and they are expected to remain as fully engaged as possible until the last student teaching day. The College maintains that the teacher candidate needs a ***minimum of one complete semester (15 weeks) of student teaching in a diverse, realistic, supportive environment.*** This experience will be under the on-going guidance of the College's personnel in collaboration with the Cooperating Teacher at the host school.

Commitment and initiative are essential. Student teaching will challenge one's energy and ability. It is important to take advantage of the support of the host school and University team members. In addition, Teacher Candidates are urged to take advantage of professional development opportunities offered while in the school setting.

During the semester's experience, Teacher Candidates are expected to apply current research-based practices and tools, including technologies that enhance teaching and learning. At the same time, they are expected to exhibit and grow in traits such as cooperation, teaming, initiative, and leadership, all of which exhibit 21st century skills.