



Teacher Education FAQs

1. What makes St. Thomas' education program and curriculum unique?

Newly revised core education courses reflect integrated High Leverage Practices across the scope of classes and field work. Our “promise to principals” is that our candidates are ready day one to engage in 10 research-based High Leverage Practices used by successful teachers.

Elementary K-6: Full year placement for student teaching in the new elementary residency program provides greater benefits for partner district K-6 students and increased job opportunities for St. Thomas teacher candidates as schools recognize value of known high-quality teacher candidates when hiring.

Secondary 5-12: Students earn both an education major with licensure and a content area major in their chosen field. Students are assigned both an education faculty advisor and a content area faculty advisor.

2. How soon in the education course sequence will I be working in field placements? What type of schools will I be in?

Early, frequent fieldwork beginning in first the first education course, EDUC 210, (recommended for Spring of freshman year). Official application for program admission is made and Teacher Education faculty advisor assigned during this course. Additional fieldwork assignments and placements occur regularly ensuring over 250 field hours (elementary) and 150 field hours (secondary) that have you prepared to make the most of student teaching. St. Thomas offers extensive classroom-based field experiences in diverse settings that include urban, suburban, public, private, charter, magnet, STEM, and International Baccalaureate schools.

3. Can I finish the education program in 4 years?

YES! Expert faculty advising is required every semester prior to registration, assuring program completion in 4 years for most candidates. Official application for program admission is made and Teacher Education faculty advisor is assigned during the first education course (EDUC 210).

4. Can I fit a study abroad experience into my education program?

Yes! The Teacher Education department offers two January term study abroad course that fulfill an education course requirement. *Learning design with Technology in international contexts: Taiwan* explores schools in Taiwan and gives students an opportunity to teach in several different classrooms. EDUC 330: Psychology for Teaching and Learning in Costa Rica and EDUC 332: Field Experience II offers students the opportunity to live, learn, teach, and explore in Costa Rica! Completes education required courses and students will become immersed in Costa

Rican culture, apply course concepts in an international setting, tour local cultural and ecological sites, and teach in a K-12 classroom at the American International School of Costa Rica.

Many of our students also take advantage of university sponsored study abroad options and finish in four years. Taking a semester abroad may require a summer or January term course.

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