



Missouri Teacher Education Part of the Solution

As the national debate rages about how to raise student achievement, teacher education is often unfairly criticized by comments based on decades old notions about teacher education. Missouri's Colleges, Departments, and Schools of Education dispel these falsehoods by offering facts about the high quality of Missouri teacher preparation.

Missouri Teacher Education Colleges Prepares *Effective Teachers*

Missouri Principals rated 80%+ of beginning teachers prepared in Missouri teacher education programs in the two highest categories of performance in both years a new Missouri DESE (OSEDA) survey about beginning teacher performance was conducted (2007 and 2008).

Missouri's Teacher Education Colleges Prepare Highly Effective Teachers Well In BOTH Content and Teaching Methods

All of Missouri's Colleges of Education work with our colleagues in Arts and Sciences to insure that every teacher who graduates has solid knowledge of the content they will teach as well as a wide repertoire of teaching methods that will help them, as future teachers, to meet the needs of individual students.

Elementary and middle school teacher education candidates must take a minimum of 21 credits of specific content preparation in addition to education/teaching methods course work. Secondary teacher education candidates must complete a content major or the equivalent of a major in the field they intend to teach.

Missouri's Teacher Education Colleges Foster Teacher Education Candidates Who Teach Well

Missouri's Colleges of Education work with every student who comes to our door but we require that students demonstrate their ability to teach before we let them finish teacher education. It is our duty to educate but if students are not performing well they are provided with support services to help them acquire either content or teaching knowledge or skills. If the student still cannot perform he/she is counseled out of teacher education. Missouri's teacher educators take seriously the responsibility to recommend only effective teachers for Missouri teacher certification.

Missouri's Teacher Education Colleges Produce Effective Teachers Who Actively Assess the Effect of Their Teaching on K-12 Student Learning

Missouri's Colleges of Education define effective teachers as those who can increase K-12 student learning. Teacher education institutions measure and assess each teacher education student's ability to produce student learning through instruments such as the Teacher Work Sample, which uses pre- and post- testing to document K-12 student learning and progress.

Missouri's Teacher Education Colleges Provide Early and Frequent K-12 School-based Practice for Teacher Education Students

Undergraduate teacher education students now complete a minimum of two, and at some institutions three or four early fieldwork experiences in K-12 schools prior to student teaching.

In early fieldwork classroom experiences, teacher education students practice teaching. They teach lessons, create assessments, work with students one-to-one, do small group work, complete teaching workshops, etc. Teaching knowledge and skills are learned and practiced in K-12 classrooms throughout the teacher education program with the result that teacher candidates know how and what to teach when they enter the student teaching classroom.

Missouri's Teacher Education Colleges Provide Alternative Routes to Teacher Certification For Adults

More than two-thirds of Missouri teacher education institutions have developed:

- Alternative Teacher Education programs that support and prepare persons with a baccalaureate degree while they are employed as teachers OR
- Innovative teacher education programs or programs that prepare teachers in the K-12 schools in which they work.
- In addition, almost every teacher education institution in the state has Post-baccalaureate Teacher Education programs that help persons with a baccalaureate degree to acquire the content knowledge and teaching methods skills they need to be effective teachers in adult-friendly time periods.

1000 (one thousand) new teachers on temporary or provisional certificates through these kinds of programs were provided instruction and support by Missouri teacher education institutions during 2008.

For More Information About Teacher Education Or Preparing To Be A Teacher

call one of our members [in the Department/College of Education at your local College or University.](#)