

Student Teaching FAQ

When do I apply for student teaching?

A meeting is held in the first month of the semester preceding the one when you plan to student teach to go over the application process. Applications will be due to the Office of Field Experiences (OFE) one week after this meeting. Watch for announced dates and places. In the meantime, you are welcome to contact our office at field.experiences@uwsp.edu with your questions.

Where are policies and procedures published?

[Professional Education Program Undergraduate Advising Guide](#)

[The Handbook for Student Teaching](#) provides important information needed to assure your success in carrying out student teaching, preparing professional credentials, obtaining a license, and pursuing a teaching position.

What are the prerequisites?

To apply for student teaching, you must have a GPA of at least 2.75 in every program for which you are seeking certification (some majors/minors may require a higher GPA). To student teach for initial certification, you must have completed 100% of the courses in your major, 100% of the courses in any minor (or minors) for which you plan to apply for certification, as well as have passing grades in all state-required content exams (Ex: ACTFL/ Foundations of Reading). For adding endorsements to an existing license, rules vary depending upon program area.

You must also demonstrate content knowledge by either 1) obtaining a 3.00 or higher in each teaching major and teaching minor or 2) submit passing scores on the required Praxis Subject Assessment exam(s). Students must meet one of the above requirements for teacher licensure.

NOTE: Any student seeking a teaching license in French, German or Spanish are required to pass the ACTFL OPIC and WPT exams, regardless of their major/minor GPA.

How many placements must I have?

You must student teach in your major in order to graduate and obtain initial certification, in most cases. If you have completed all requirements for a certifiable minor, you may choose to pursue certification in the additional subject area by requesting either a split placement during a single student teaching semester, or an additional placement before or after full-semester student teaching. For full-semester student teaching for initial certification, you may request a split placement; however, such placements are sometimes difficult to obtain and complete.

**The OFE does not guarantee the availability of initial student teaching placements beyond the minimum range of grade levels in your major. For minors or extended ranges of grade-level, you have choices, not obligations for initial certification. As you explore various options, please bear in mind that quantity of experiences does not replace quality of experience. For all student teachers, one or two good experiences are better than many mediocre ones.

How are placements assigned?

In your Student Teaching Application, you will provide the OFE with three school district preferences. The OFE will then follow your first preferred district's procedure for requesting student teaching placements. If a school is unable to provide a placement, the OFE will move the request to another

school within that same district. If a placement is denied by the district, then the OFE will move on to the second district preference you provided. In order to keep the request process moving, you will not be notified of any denied requests unless additional district preferences are needed.

What is lobbying?

Under no circumstances does UWSP condone actively seeking a student teaching placement through *unwelcome* contacts with cooperating school administrators, teachers, or staff. If you do not *appropriately* meet with cooperating professionals, any contacts you pursue by such so-called "lobbying" could lead to denial of your application for student teaching as well as refusal by a cooperating school or agency, not only of your application but those of others.

What are conflicts of interest?

Teacher candidates may not be assigned in cooperating schools and classrooms where the following conflicts occur, unless agreed upon by the host district: the teacher candidate has a child in that school building; the teacher candidate has a direct relative in that school building in a teaching or administrative capacity, or a direct relative in that school district in an administrative capacity; the school district has explicitly stated a policy regarding former students of that district's schools returning as teacher candidates. The OFE may terminate any student teaching placement in which a conflict of interest is found to occur.

What locations can I request for my student teaching?

- Student Teaching may be completed in any district in Wisconsin; however, fees will be applied based on location for supervision services rendered to offset costs assumed by UWSP at the student's choice. Please refer to the fee zones located on the [map](#). Approval will depend on the availability of placements and conflict with other programs.
- Requests for placements out-of-state will *only* be considered in the event of spousal/domestic partner relationship relocation. We cannot guarantee any out-of-state placements. In the event a successful placement can be made, additional fees may be assessed.
- In conjunction with [Educators Abroad](#), some student teaching placements may be overseas, which also entail additional fees. Such requests will be considered only in conjunction with a quarter of student teaching in Wisconsin.
- UWSP also places teacher candidates with the [Institute for Urban Education \(IUE\)](#). This program makes placements in urban settings in Wisconsin; participants are supported in a collaborative seminar. Interest in such a placement should be expressed early in the application process by meeting with the Director of Field Experiences.

What are internships and how are they assigned?

Internships are placements in which student teachers are given temporary certification from the WI DPI and partial contracts from the sponsoring school district. Interns may be placed in independent teaching situations for up to 50% of their day. Following guidelines established by the [Wisconsin Improvement Program](#), internship requests originate from school districts to meet various needs. As such, they may be posted anytime. Nomination of candidates may be taken anytime by the OFE from program areas. If you wish to apply for an internship, you must have a cumulative GPA of at least 3.0; upon applying, and submit 3 letters of recommendation. You may also have an interview with the Office of Field Experiences Manager before your application materials are forwarded to postings identified by you. There are many uncertainties about internships. We at the OFE cannot be sure of the

content and timing of any such assignment but will make every effort to assure you that your application will be fully considered and fairly handled. Since there is no guarantee that you will receive an internship, our office will always seek a regular student teaching placement first. Being hired as an intern is the only time our office will cancel an already approved student teaching placement. However, you may not be hired for an internship within one month of the start of the semester you will be student teaching.

How can I best prepare for a successful student teaching experience?

Successful teacher candidates enter the student teaching semester understanding the complex nature of teaching and working as an integral part of a school community. They also understand the expectations for a successful evaluation. The [Handbook for Student Teaching](#) provides information and resources to assist in preparing for the experience. Especially recommended are a thorough understanding of the InTASC Teaching Standards (Appendix E) and the Teacher Candidate Dispositions (Appendix J).

What do I need to know as I plan ahead for my semester of student teaching?

Teacher candidates should be aware that the semester of student teaching follows the calendar of the host school district. This means that you will start before the UWSP semester and/or extend beyond it, depending upon the semester of your experience. Wisconsin school district calendars typically require teachers to report during the last week in August. The end of the school year is usually in early June. Teacher candidates must be in attendance for all teacher workdays. Vacation days also follow the host school district calendar. Do not plan personal events that cause conflicts with this requirement.

Teacher candidates must attend required seminars on campus scheduled during the semester, regardless of the location of the placement.