

FAQ's

When do I do the TEP I interview?

Schedule your TEP I interview after you have taken the bulk of your GEC courses and have taken ED201.

What do I need for the TEP I interview?

Click [here](#). Master's students are exempt from the Praxis I requirement.

What do I need for the TEP II interview?

Click [here](#). Most importantly for undergraduates, you need to have passed all the praxis exams before you student teach. If there is one exam you have not passed, and you missed it by 5 points or less, you'll be admitted to TEP II and can student teach. MAE candidates do not need to have passed all of their praxis II exams before the TEP II interview or student teaching. Everyone must understand that they are ineligible for a Tennessee teacher's license until they have passed all their praxis II exams.

When do I do the TEP II interview?

Once you have met the requirements listed on the webpage linked above. Undergraduate and MAE candidates typically go through the TEP II interview the semester prior to student teaching.

When do I Student Teach?

Once you have completed all of professional education core courses, but not before your senior year. Typically student teaching is done your last semester at CU.

What do I need to do during student teaching?

Procedures for student teaching are laid out in the student teacher handbook (click [here](#) to see an example).

Can I teach at the school I went to?

No. The broader the experience you have prior to teaching, and the more schools and teachers you work with or are exposed to, the more complete your development will be.

Can I choose the schools where I am placed for student teaching?

You can certainly ask. Placements are made at the school district level, so we have some say in where you're placed, but we may not be able to get you your first choices. The placement request form you fill out after getting into TEP II asks you for your choices, and asks you to prioritize what's most important to you, the school, the grade, or the location. If the district can't match your first choice, the next choice will be made based on your stated priorities.

Can I teach in my hometown?

That depends. You may request any school that you want, but we may not be willing or able to place you there. Understand that long drives to schools distant from Lebanon tax the time and resources of supervisors. Most placements will be made within a 30-mile radius of Lebanon or the Metro Nashville Public School System. If the University agrees to let you student teach outside of these areas, you will pay 44.8 cents per mile beyond 60 miles for the round trip.

Is the Transitional Licensure a better route for me?

Maybe. That depends on your circumstances. If you have no experience teaching in a classroom setting, student teaching is recommended over alternative licensure. If you are a parent or have no means of income, Transitional license may be better. Here are the basic pros and cons for each, but it's recommended that you meet with your advisor to go over this decision:

Transitional Lic.		Student teaching	
Pro	Con	Pro	Con
you can start working right away ... and get paid.	No safety net allowing you to make mistakes with no consequence for student learning.	In class mentors able to show good alternatives/ share resources, etc. Working with "safety net."	Student teaching is a 12 credit hour course, so you are paying for it instead of earning a check. AND <u>you're not supposed to hold another job while student teaching.</u>
You can start before finishing all Praxis II exams.	No in-class mentor. Mentoring by other teachers at the school ranges widely in quality.	Seminars include peer sharing and continued exposure to professors' experience and knowledge.	You may end up with a cooperating teacher that you learn more about what NOT to do, than what TO do.
Many alternative licensure candidates end up in schools they are familiar with.	Done in a year, or maybe more. Transitional license can be dragged out to three years or more – that don't count toward tenure.	Chance to work with 2 different teachers, 2 different schools; more exposure means more experience.	You are a guest in your CT's classroom; there will most likely be limits on what you can try.
	Some schools use alternative license candidates to fill temporary positions; have no intent to hire long-term.	You finish with full initial license that all schools accept. Your tenure clock starts on day one.	
		Done in one semester.	

What's up with these standards and proficiencies?

The school of education wants you to know as you go through this process what kinds of outcomes we expect to see from you. There are 10 main standards describing what we want our ideal graduates to look like. Under each of these are proficiencies that detail the specific kinds of knowledge, dispositions, and skills that we believe are exemplary of excellent new teachers (they are in fact taken from the standards created by the International New Teachers Assessment and Support Consortium).

If I know I want to get a Master's degree, should I wait to student teach at the graduate level?

Yes, if you're SURE you're going right into the Master's level. Go ahead and graduate if you have the hours, or take 12 other credits and enroll in the Master's program. Take your Master's courses and then student teach as an MAE candidate. BUT it may be better to teach for at least a year before taking your Master's courses.