**FAQ about TechTeach:**

**What is TechTeach?**

Tech Teach is the Teacher Education Program at the College of Education. Tech Teach is a clinically intensive, competency-based program that will give beginning teacher candidates a stronger foundation in the classroom.

**Where will I student teach if I am involved with TechTeach?**

Teacher candidates will complete their student teaching semesters at a designated campus in one of our partner school districts. Students attending the Lubbock campus will student teaching in Lubbock ISD. Students in the DFW Metroplex will student teach in DISD or FWISD. Students in the Texas Hill Country will student teach in Marble Falls ISD or Fredricksburg ISD. As the program expands, other districts will become part of our partnership network.

**Can I student teach at a distance with the TechTeach Program?**

Currently, “long distance” is not an option with Tech Teach. However, we are working on developing relationships with districts in other areas and these opportunities could be available in the near future.

**Will I be able to work during student teaching?**

We do not recommend that candidates work during student teaching.

**What are Performance Assessments?**

Performance Assessments are the evaluation process that is used during student teaching. Three performance assessments will be conducted each semester to assist the candidate in improving his/her instructional skills.

**What is the start date for student teaching?**

Teacher candidates will begin on the first day of staff training for the school district. In most cases, this is mid-August for the Fall semester and early January for the Spring semester.

**Are there scholarships available?**

Yes, and you should apply because we have a large number of scholarships available specifically for TechTeach candidates in their second semester of student teaching. Scholarships will be awarded based on need, and performance during the first student teaching semester.

**What are the requirements for student teaching?**

Admission requirements are now significantly more rigorous.

* You must take a Content Pre-Admission exam before starting Block 1 classes. Results on this exam will be used to counsel you about the advisability of continuing to pursue a teaching credential.
* You must pass your content area TExES exam prior to student teaching. The content exam covers knowledge from your major course of study (e.g., History, Mathematics or contents needed for Elementary certification).
* You must have a minimum 2.75 GPA
* With the exception of education courses designed to be completed during student teaching, all courses must be completed prior to beginning the student teaching semesters.
* For teacher candidates in all programs, the student teaching practicum lasts for two semesters without increasing the time or number of credit hours you must complete.
* You must have grades of C or above in all content area courses.

**What is TAP?**

TAP is the evaluation tool that will be used during the performance assessments each semester. TAP is a research based tool that targets specific instructional strategies that are critical for successful teachers.

**Why is the College of Education changing the teacher education program?**

Through years of research we find that public schools continue to struggle to find great teacher candidates that can effectively work with the plethora of needs in today’s classroom. TTU believes that we can respond to this need by providing candidates that have a strong content knowledge base and equally strong classroom experience. This means that we cannot continue to be complacent and follow the age old system. We must find ways to support our candidates and give them an edge that no other program can. We believe this is possible through the Tech Teach program.

**Will I really get an iPad?**

Yes. The iPad is part of a kit that will be used during student teaching. Candidates will be required to video their teaching lessons and use this as a reflective tool for growth. The iPad is an integral part of this process, so the College of Education will provide candidates in the program with the “kit”. The kit includes an iPad, wide-angle lense and microphone that will make recording lessons an easy process.

**How will Tech Teach benefit me?**

Tech Teach will provide our candidates with instructional tools that will give them experience beyond that of a 1st or 2nd year beginning teacher. The instructional program and clinical experience will surpass that of any other teacher education program. Current pilot programs prove that candidates involved with Tech Teach have a knowledge base that far surpasses that of the traditional candidate.

**How are mentor teachers selected?**

The “site coordinators” for each area carefully select the mentor teachers based on their knowledge and experience. Site coordinators are in the schools daily and know the teachers and administrators well. Mentors also must meet criteria set by the Texas Education Agency.

**May I request a campus or mentor?**

Tech Teach works at specific sites within a partner district , and site coordinators are responsible for selecting mentors at those campuses, and carefully matching them with the teacher candidates. Because mentor teachers are carefully selected for their superior skill level and experience, we are sure that candidates will be successful with any of the selected mentors.