Student Teaching Step-by-Step Application Guide
From Application Submission to Starting Day One

Designed for Future Student Teachers @ Ball State
Office of Teacher Education Services & Clinical Practice
2021-22
Congratulations! You’ve studied and worked hard. You’ve completed coursework and taken countless tests, and you are looking forward to achieving your dream… stepping into your own classroom! BEFORE starting Day One, there are requirements you need to accomplish to ensure you are informed, prepared, and ready to go for a successful start. We’ve designed this Step-by-Step Guide to help you get to the next big event - STUDENT TEACHING!

**Step #1 - Attend a Virtual or on-campus Student Teaching Application Meeting**

The first step in the process toward becoming a student teacher at Ball State University is to attend one of several Student Teaching Application Meetings that are held around campus. We publicize the dates and times for these meetings by posting fliers around campus, sending emails to faculty, and we even take out an ad in the newspaper! If you have any questions, you can always contact us at otes@bsu.edu or stop by and visit us in TC205. We’re happy to help. **IMPORTANT:** While anyone may attend, you can ONLY apply to student teach if you have fully completed Decision Point 1, also referred to as “Admission to the Teacher Preparation Program.”

- At the meeting, you will be introduced to the staff of our office, learn more about the application process, learn about possible placements for student teaching (both here in Indiana and in other locations), and ask any questions you may have about your specific situation. Virtual options allow for questions in a subsequent opportunity.

- You will also see a vital demonstration of how to complete the application itself and receive hints and tips so that potential schools will be impressed with your responses! In addition, you will find out how to get help with the construction of your answers so that your application stands out from the crowd!

- During the meeting you will also meet a representative from the Ball State University Career Center who will highlight upcoming mandatory Professionalism Workshops designed to help you gain some critical information that will help you SUCCEED in your student teaching interview.

- If you are considering completing your student teaching in Germany; Quantico, VA; Aldine, Texas; or one of several other overseas opportunities, you will learn about the informational meetings designed to help you make an informed decision.

**Before this step is considered complete, you will need to digitally sign and submit some important documents that we must have in order to begin processing your application for student teaching.**

**Step #2 - Attend a Career Center Interview Preparation Workshop**

Once your student teaching application is completed and submitted, we will expect to see you at one of the workshops that we co-present with our partners in the Career Center. We encourage EVERY school to interview you before they accept you as a student teacher in their building, so it is likely that you will go through a short teacher interview. This creates purpose, intentionality, and a solid beginning professional relationship. The Career Center and OTES-CP pair together to help prepare you for this interview. Dates and times will be advertised for these workshops during the
student teaching application meeting. Workshops will be conducted both on-campus and through virtual/remote.

- In order to help you be prepared and successful, we will provide you with hints, tips and solid evidence about planning for these interviews.

- You will learn which questions principals may ask and begin preparing your answers. You will also watch a mock interview and learn how to break down questions to get at the heart of what is being asked.

- Finally, you will learn all about presenting yourself as a professional from here on out for the rest of your educational career.

**Step #3- Attend Student Teaching ORIENTATION**

**One semester prior to the start of your student teaching placement** you will attend a Student Teaching Orientation. This meeting is designed to help you become familiar with the policies, procedures, assessments, and mindset of student teaching. You will learn about the requirements of student teaching, how to get started on the right foot, and the training you must complete before you begin your placement. Orientation occurs one semester prior to your placement, and students are notified via email during that semester. For example, if you plan to student teach in the spring 2023, your orientation will occur in the fall 2022 semester. During the past four semesters due to COVID-19, our orientations have been self-paced and digital. We will reevaluate COVID-19 conditions, and Ball State policy, before publicizing the format of future orientations.

As a result of our time together you will:

- Better understand the assignments, assessments, and requirements during student teaching, including edTPA.

- Understand what online training you must complete before your student teaching assignment begins. For example, all student teachers must complete the Bloodborne Pathogen training online.

- Understand the importance of the “support triad.” Understanding the roles of your future mentor teacher, your university supervisor, and your role as a student teacher is critical to success in student teaching.

- Better understand the policies and procedures that govern student teaching, including your rights as a student and how to navigate through challenging situations.

- Understand what interaction is required and permissible with your school prior to the start of day one. While two visits with your teacher are required, some students choose to volunteer in the classroom to be better prepared.

**Step #4- Review the Digital Student Teaching Orientation Files**
Between the end of orientation and the beginning of your student teaching placement, there are materials you must review. Examples include, edTPA, creating good communication with your mentor teacher, and understanding the co-teaching model. You will receive directions on how to view these digital materials during orientation.

**Step #5- Attend an Introduction to Student Teaching Workshop with Your Mentor Teacher and/or Complete Two Visits to the Classroom.**

Student teachers are required to visit for two full days with their teacher in the classroom. Directions are provided during orientation on how to structure this visit. However, in lieu of one of those visits, a student teacher can attend a workshop with their mentor teacher.

Each semester and over the summer we offer several *Introduction to Student Teaching Workshops* designed for you and your mentor teacher to attend together and begin building the bridges of positive communication that will help to make for a successful student teaching experience. These workshops are offered in a variety of locations in central Indiana and at a variety of times to accommodate various schedules. Workshops in the summer are typically held between 11AM-2PM Eastern Time. Workshops during the academic year are traditionally held between 4PM-6PM Eastern Time to accommodate teacher schedules. Since you are required to meet with your mentor teacher twice prior to beginning your placement, this workshop counts as one of those meetings. Due to COVID-19 over the last four semesters, these workshops have been virtual and conducted through our student orientation and a separate mentor teacher orientation. We will reevaluate COVID-19 conditions, and Ball State policy, before publicizing the format of future workshops.

- During the workshop, you and your mentor teacher will gain a foundational understanding of the requirements of student teaching.
- You will engage in large and small group discussions designed to improve communication and learn how to implement the seven co-teaching strategies. Adopted by Ball State, these seven strategies are a research-based model of student teaching implemented to increase your ability to succeed and better help the P-12 learners in your classroom.
- We encourage you and your mentor teacher to attend together so that you can get to know one another and discuss edTPA requirements, as well as other curricular goals for your time together.

**Step #6- BEGIN STUDENT TEACHING!**

**Congratulations!** You are now prepared to start day one in your student teaching assignment. Your start date will begin with your school schedule, not that of Ball State. Remember, this is your experience, and you will get out of it, what you put into it. Cherish it and enjoy it, as it will serve you well for the rest of your educational career.
COVID-19 During the 2020-21 academic year, OTES-CP made several arrangements to digitize all steps in this document and conduct them online. The same will be true of 2021-22, with a digital/remote option for all activities. The possibility of onsite/in-person sessions will be considered pending guidance by Ball State University and COVID-19 policies. In addition to digital documents and webinars, we encourage faculty to invite us into their onsite and virtual classrooms for a more in-depth look at student teaching and how to apply.