

MENTORING AN EVERGREEN STATE COLLEGE TEACHER CANDIDATE

Have you ever received a request from your HR Department or your principal to mentor a student teacher, and wondered what would be involved?

We hope this brief Q/A sheet will encourage you to work with one of our teacher candidates (student teachers). For more complete information, please read pages 7 – 11 of the *Evergreen Student Teaching Handbook* at http://www.evergreen.edu/mit/publications/st_hb07_sec1.pdf

Question: How long will the teacher candidate be in my classroom?

Answer: Evergreen teacher candidates work in one school during the fall and in a different school in the spring. In the fall, teacher candidates are available to help you plan and to participate in in-service activities before school begins. Once the school year starts, your teacher candidate will be with you for 10 weeks. Spring teacher candidates often begin working with their mentors before the spring placement and work full time in the classroom for 10 weeks.

Question: How much time will mentoring take? What am I expected to do?

Answer: Mentoring does take time. The mentor is expected to introduce the teacher candidate to colleagues and students; review the candidate's lesson plans and make suggestions for improvement; observe the candidate teaching and provide regular feedback; meet with the candidate and the college supervisor at least three times during the quarter to discuss the candidate's progress; and evaluate the candidate's work using Evergreen's *Student Teaching Rubric*.

Question: Do I have to leave my classroom?

Answer: It depends! If you choose to follow the more traditional model, we ask that you allow your teacher candidate to do all the planning, teaching, and managing of the classroom for a minimum of three weeks. During that time, you remain in the building but have the opportunity to focus on future planning or professional development. If you prefer the co-teaching model, you do not leave the classroom, but you do cede the leadership in planning, teaching, and management to the candidate for a minimum of three weeks.

Question: What are the responsibilities of a teacher candidate?

Answer: The teacher candidate's primary responsibilities are to support the learning of students and develop the knowledge and skills necessary to be recommended for Residency Certification. This includes collaborating with the teacher mentor to develop and implement student-centered learning opportunities that meet state and district standards; working with the mentor to improve the candidate's abilities to apply appropriate classroom and behavior management strategies; and seeking to participate in the life of the school as much as possible. In addition to meeting expectations of the mentor teacher, the teacher candidate must fulfill lesson-planning and assessment requirements of the MiT program.

Mentor teachers tell us that our candidates are well prepared, responsible, and a significant asset in the classroom. Their presence allows you to more effectively reach more of your students. From our side – we need your experience, knowledge, and skills to help prepare the next generation of teachers.

Thank you for considering welcoming an Evergreen State College MiT Teacher Candidate into your classroom!

MiT

Master in Teaching Program

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