

A Developmental Approach to Becoming a Teacher: Two Models

The student teaching assignment is a full-time, developmental experience in which the teacher candidate participates in a progressive series of teaching responsibilities. This may include working with individuals, small groups, and the whole class as well as team teaching and planning with the mentor. Within this context, Evergreen's MiT program uses two developmental models to support candidates' growth as teachers. In both models, careful attention is paid to helping the candidate develop the knowledge and skills necessary to effectively support the learning of K-12 students, including effective classroom management skills. Candidates develop their abilities through two, full-time student teaching experiences, each of which lasts 10 weeks.

In the first model, candidates eventually assume full, solo responsibility for planning, instruction, assessment, and classroom management *for a minimum of three weeks in each of the two, 10-week student teaching placements*. When the candidate assumes full responsibility, the mentor is in the building and in the classroom when she/he intends to observe and provide feedback to the candidate.

In the second model, co-teaching, the candidate eventually assumes the lead role in the mentor-candidate team in planning, instruction, assessment, and classroom management *for a minimum of three weeks of the 10-week experience*. The mentor remains in the classroom providing support to small groups or individual students using the co-teaching strategies described later in this section.

Model 1

After a progressive series of successful classroom planning, teaching and management responsibilities, the teacher candidate assumes solo teaching responsibilities. Solo teaching requires the teacher candidate to assume the full-time assessment, planning, teaching, and management responsibilities of the mentor teacher for a minimum of three consecutive weeks of each full-time student teaching assignment.

The candidate is expected to continuously take into account the contexts in which the students are learning (classroom, school, family, and community) as well as pre-, formative, and summative assessment information as she/he develops lesson plans and learning opportunities. The candidate is expected to follow the developmental procedures for planning, writing, and implementing lessons as outlined below. Taking into account the experiences and abilities of each teacher candidate as she/he enters the second student teaching assignment in the spring quarter, the outlined time frame below may be modified.

1. During weeks one and two of the assignment, the teacher candidate plans with the mentor teacher and works with individuals, small groups, and the whole class as appropriate.
2. During weeks three and four, the elementary school teacher candidate takes responsibility for 2-3 days of the week's assessment, planning, teaching, and management responsibilities or for half days for those weeks. The middle and high school teacher candidate takes on those same responsibilities for two or three periods a day. The candidate consults with the mentor and must provide the mentor with lesson plans or lesson plan outlines for feedback on the Friday *prior* to teaching.
3. During week four, five, or six, the teacher candidate assumes independent responsibility for the entire week for assessing, planning, teaching, and management. The candidate must consult with the mentor as she/he plans and then submit plans or outlines of plans to the mentor the

Friday prior to the week the plans will be implemented unless the mentor designates a different schedule.

4. During the remaining weeks of the assignment, the teacher candidate continues to plan independently (including plans for assessment, teaching, and management), following an approved deadline procedure for review of plans.
5. If possible, the candidate should gradually taper off her/his involvement in assessing, planning, teaching, and management and be provided with time the last week of the quarter to visit other classrooms and schools.

Model 2 – Co-Teaching

Evergreen’s MiT program, like many teacher preparation programs in the state, also uses a co-teaching model of student teaching. The intention behind this model is that public school students, teacher candidates, and mentor teachers will all benefit from a *continuous* collaborative planning and teaching relationship between the candidate and the mentor. *Mentors and candidates who agree to use the co-teaching model also agree to attend a training workshop before student teaching begins, follow the guidelines, and employ the co-teaching strategies described in this section.*

St. Cloud University has conducted extensive research about the efficacy of co-teaching. Based on their research and MiT’s experiences with the co-teaching model, we are implementing the model as described below. Though the mentor teacher remains in the classroom co-teaching with the teacher candidate for the entire quarter, the *teacher candidate eventually assumes the lead role in the relationship and maintains that role for at least three consecutive weeks*. Before student teaching begins, the MiT faculty supervisor, mentor teacher, and teacher candidate discuss and agree on a timeline that allows the candidate to progressively assume leadership in the co-planning and co-teaching relationship. A sample progression may be:

1. For the first two to three weeks, the mentor teacher takes the lead in co-planning, modeling, and co-teaching with the candidate engaging in one or more of the teaching strategies described below.
2. For the next two weeks, the mentor and candidate work together to co-plan (including plans for assessment and classroom management) and co-teach using the team teaching strategies described below.
3. The teacher candidate then takes the lead *for a minimum of three weeks* in the planning and co-teaching with the mentor engaging in one or more of the co-teaching strategies described. When the candidate is the lead teacher, she/he is responsible for assessment, collaborative planning, organizing the teaching responsibilities for herself/himself and the other adults in the room, family involvement, classroom management, and interface with the rest of the school. The teacher candidate in the leadership role provides the candidate with an important developmental opportunity, roughly equivalent to solo teaching in the traditional student teaching model.
4. The mentor and candidate decide on the appropriate division of responsibilities for the weeks remaining in the quarter. If possible, the candidate should be provided the opportunity to visit other classrooms and schools in the last week of the assignment.

The information provided by St. Cloud University describes what co-teaching is and is not, and defines a range of teaching strategies that could be used by the teacher candidate and mentor teacher. To implement this model, the mentor teacher, teacher candidate, and college faculty work collaboratively to select the teaching strategies that will be implemented to meet:

- the needs of the students, staff, and school,
- MiT's requirements for lesson planning, and,
- requirements necessary for candidates to reach standard on the *Student Teaching Rubric* and the State of Washington *Teacher Performance Assessment* (please see Section II of the *Student Teaching Handbook – Assessment Guide*).

Co-Teaching: What and How

Co-teaching is defined as two teachers working together with groups of students and sharing the planning, organization, delivery and assessment of instruction and physical space.

What co-teaching is NOT:

- One person teaching one subject followed by another who teaches a different subject
- One person teaching one subject while another person prepares instructional materials at the Xerox machine or corrects student papers in the teachers' lounge
- One person teaching while the other sits and watches
- When one person's ideas prevail regarding what will be taught and how it will be taught
- When someone is simply assigned to act as a tutor

Co-Teaching Strategies – How to Shape the Co-Teaching Experience

Team Teaching – well-planned, team-taught lessons exhibit an invisible flow of instruction with no prescribed division of authority. Using a team teaching strategy, both teachers are actively involved in the lesson. From a student's perspective, there is no clearly defined leader, as both teachers share the instruction and are free to interject information and are available to assist students and answer questions.

One Teach, One Observe – One teacher has primary instructional responsibility for a particular segment of instruction while the other gathers specific observational information on students or the (instructing) teacher

One Teach, One Drift – One teacher has primary instructional responsibility for a particular segment of instruction while the other teacher assists students with their work, monitors behaviors or corrects assignments

Station Teaching – The co-teaching pair divide the instructional content into parts – each teacher instructs one of the groups. The groups then rotate or spend a designated amount of time at each station. Often an independent station will be used.

Parallel Teaching – Each teacher instructs half of the students. The two teachers are addressing the same instructional material and presenting the material using the same teaching strategy. The greatest benefit is the reduction of the student to teacher ratio.

Supplemental Teaching – This strategy allows one teacher to work with students at their expected grade level while the co-teacher works with those students who need the information and/or materials extended or remediated.

Alternative/Differentiated Teaching – Alternative teaching strategies provide two different approaches to teaching the same information. The learning outcome is the same for all students; however, the avenue for getting there is different.