



NetSERVE Teacher Residency

FAQ

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*If you cannot find the answers to your questions here,
please contact the Project Director from more information:*

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Admittance to Program Questions

What do I need to do to be admitted? Do I need to take the GRE or MAT?

In order to apply for the Teacher Residency program, you must first be admitted into the Graduate School. A transcript review by the M.A.T. Program Director which will guide you in planning for this experience is required by June 1st of the year you intend to apply and prior to completing the Graduate School and the online NetSERVE Teacher Residency applications. You must qualify for entrance into the Graduate School before you will be considered for the MAT Residency program. Transcripts with a GPA below 3.0 will require you to have either the Graduate Record Exam (GRE) or Miller Analogy Test (MAT) scores as part of your submission.

The NetSERVE Teacher Residency application is submitted online and includes questions regarding background experiences, interests, and future goals.

The deadline for completing both the Graduate School application and the NetSERVE Teacher Residency applications is June 1st. Applications and transcripts will be reviewed and feedback provided with regard to scheduling cohort admission and any necessary prerequisite coursework. Candidates who qualify to start in the current cohort will then be invited to participate in an interview with the Residency Selection Committee comprised of Winthrop University program faculty and partner districts' representatives.

Passing scores on the PRAXIS Subject Area Exam are required for full admittance into the program.

Is there a fee to apply?

The fee to apply to the Graduate School is \$50.00. Waivers are available. There is no fee to apply to the Teacher Residency program.

Program General Questions

Is the program accredited?

Yes.

Is the program online? Are there face-to-face interactions?

The program is designed to provide Teacher Residents opportunity to embed themselves deeply in the school and community of the residency placement. You will be doing most of your learning during the school day in a school working alongside certified teachers and actual students. To maximize the time spent engaged in an authentic setting for teaching and learning, coursework is delivered in a hybrid model of 60% of courses online and 40% delivered face-to-face either on the Winthrop University campus or at the residency site.

Financial Questions

How much will the program degree cost me?

The MAT program is a 30 credit hour program and Teacher Residents receive a 50% reduction in the cost of graduate coursework tuition. The cost per credit hour is \$312 or \$935 for a 3-credit hour graduate course. Tuition for pre-requisite coursework that may be necessary to prepare you for completion of

the MAT and to qualify you for certification in your chosen content area may not qualify for receiving the reduced tuition rate.

The average cost of tuition after financial aid is determined on a case-by-case basis.

You also may be eligible to qualify for federal programs that provide financial support for teachers who commit to teach in high-need areas. The \$20,000 living expenses support stipend cannot be used for tuition/fees. For detailed information on the financial aid package you may receive, contact the Office of Financial Aid (<https://www.winthrop.edu/finaid/contact-us.aspx>).

How and when will the \$20,000 stipend be distributed?

The \$20,000 living expense stipend is considered a student support payment and is processed through the office of Financial Aid and the money received is considered taxable income. , Promissory note documents must be signed and you must be fully admitted to the Graduate School, have passed the PRAXIS Content Area test, and been accepted in the Teacher Education program before stipends are authorized for disbursement. The Promissory Note is the official document that formalizes your agreement to accept the Teacher Residency program obligations – completion of program and three year commitment of teaching service – and your acknowledgement of the terms for repayment of the stipend if those obligations are not met. Stipend payments are made monthly beginning in May and continuing through the following April. The payments will be electronically sent by the Student Financial Services Office.

What will my starting salary be as a Teacher after I complete my Residency?

We cannot provide this information since each school district in South Carolina establishes their own salary scale and starting salary for new teachers based upon degree level and years of experience. The State of South Carolina has developed a State Minimum Salary Schedule that can be used as a guide to estimate starting salary based upon years of experience and level of education.

The State FY 2020 Minimum Salary Schedule

<https://www.ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-data/historical-data/teacher-salary-schedules/fiscal-year-2019-2020-state-minimum-salary-schedule/>

District FY 2019-2020 Minimum Salary Schedules

<https://www.ed.sc.gov/finance/financial-data/historical-data/teacher-salary-schedules/fiscal-year-2019-2020-district-minimum-salary-schedules/>

Residency Questions

What is a residency program?

A Teacher Residency program is an intensively supervised and mentored program for aspiring teachers to help them refine professional practice and skills, gain practical teaching experience under the guidance of a mentor teacher, and prepare them to obtain certification to teach credentials. Teacher

Residents complete graduate-level coursework alongside a year-long fieldwork experience in a school or district in which the prospective teacher will be hired.

Will I be paid for the full-time residency? What is the post-residency commitment?

No. You will receive up to \$20,000 in support for living expenses incurred while you complete the residency program. In return, you must make a commitment to teach for three years following your residency at your residency school or district.

Who is eligible to apply for the Teacher Residency Program?

This program is designed for individuals who are interested in becoming teachers in a rural, high-needs district or school who do not have backgrounds in education. If you have earned a non-education undergraduate degree and have met the requirements for entrance into the Graduate School, you are eligible to apply for the residency program. Teacher Residents are selected for admittance into a cohort based upon school district determined teaching certification area needs, graduate program acceptance, successful passage of the content area PRAXIS, and interview.

How long is the teacher residency and master's program?

The master's program length is between 12-18 months depending upon your prior coursework and the prerequisites for your desired certification area. The residency component is one-year. The program begins in the summer with education core curriculum coursework and the Teacher Residency community experience. The full-time, co-teaching residency in a partner district school begins in August and continues one full school year through June (fall and spring semesters).

How is this program different from other residency programs?

A residency is a sustained, year-long experience in a school combining master's level content coursework with a co-teaching experience. This program incorporates traditional elements of residency programs (year-long co-teaching experience and support) but also provides Teacher Residents with a living expense support stipend of \$20,000, a guaranteed teaching position with successful completion of the program, specific preparation for work in diverse schools, and intensive mentoring and coaching support for three years.

Do I need to make a commitment to teach in my placement school beyond the residency year?

Yes. To be part of the Teacher Residency program and to receive the \$20,000 residency living expenses support you must agree to a three-year commitment to teach in the residency district following completion of the master's program. We intend for our residents to stay in teaching and take on leadership roles in their residency districts for many years beyond the first three.

After the program is over, will I be eligible to teach in the school where I am doing my residency?

Upon the successful completion of the Teacher Residency program you will earn your master's degree and be recommended for initial teacher certification in South Carolina. The school and/or school district in which you completed your residency will determine availability of full-time positions for the upcoming year and support you in finding a position at your residency school, within another district school, or within a school in another partner districts.

Mentoring and Resident Supports

Can I choose where I can complete my residency year?

No, however, candidate requests will be considered as part of the placement process. Placement in a particular school or district is not guaranteed or promised so candidates must be willing and able to serve their residency in any of the partner districts or associated schools

Do I have to move to the area where I will be completing my residency?

No. There is no requirement to move to the area where you will be completing your residency. We encourage residents to consider relocation options, but the program is designed to allow Residents to make relocation a personal decision.

How is my residency placement determined? When will I be told of my placement?

Residents are placed with master mentor teachers in a high-need school in one of three partner districts (Chester, Chesterfield, or Fairfield). Teacher Resident candidates will be notified of their placements by April 1st a month prior to beginning the program. Placement can be in any of the three districts; however, Resident candidate requests will be considered in the placement decision. Placement in a particular school or district is not guaranteed or promised so candidates must be willing and able to serve their residency in any of the partner districts or associated schools. All placement decisions are made to ensure that Residents are matched to a school and district that supports their development and growth needs appropriately.

If I am accepted into the MAT am I guaranteed a placement in a district?

If you have met the requirements of the program by successfully completing the M.A.T. coursework and residency components, have undergone a criminal background check, and have earned the required licensure qualifications and approvals to teach you are eligible for job placement in the residency school or district.

Are the district partner schools looking for specific content areas?

Yes. The program is specifically designed to serve the content areas of secondary and middle level math and science, special education, and early childhood/elementary. Recruitment priorities will change based upon the needs of the partner districts.