



CSM Teacher Education Practicum FAQs

TED 2001

TED 2011

TED 2021

Q: What is the practicum?

A: It is an early field experience that requires students to complete a minimum of 45 hours of observation and participation with a mentor teacher in a public school classroom over the course of an entire semester. Offered Fall and Spring.

Q: Is the practicum the same as student teaching?

A: No! Student teaching is a much more intensive experience completed at the end of a teacher certification program. The practicum is an introduction to what it is like to be a teacher so that students can gain some knowledge and experience and decide if they really want to go into teaching.

Q: How do I know which course I need?

A: It depends on your certification area...

- [TED 2001](#): Early Childhood Education majors (Grades PK-3)
- [TED 2011](#): Elementary Education majors (Grades 1-6, cannot do PK or K).
- [TED 2021](#): Secondary Education majors (Grades 7-12).

Q: How do I register?

A: PRIOR to the semester that you plan to complete the practicum, please email Professor Beth Settle, the Teacher Education Program Coordinator, at elizabeth.settle@csmd.edu. Please include the course that you want along with your CSM Student ID number. She will check that you meet the prerequisites for the course and approve the petition.

Q: How will I be placed in a school?

A: **You should NOT try to arrange your own placement.** All placements are made by the Teacher Education Program Coordinator in collaboration with the three Southern Maryland school systems. Once you have registered, you will receive the electronic Practicum Placement Request Form. You can request the day(s) and time(s) for your placement as well as a school site. Due to confidentiality issues, you might be placed in a different school than requested if you recently graduated from that school, live near that school, have a child or sibling attending that school, or have a family member working at that school. It also might not be possible to find a teacher with whom you can work at that school, so we may have to place you at another school. Please note: sending in your placement information does NOT mean you are registered for the course; you must still register and pay for the class before you will be placed.

Q: What if I already have a job in a school?

A: For the most part, you will be able to use a current position in a public school to complete the requirements. It is strongly recommended that you spend about 1 hour per week in a different classroom, observing and participating. Most students find it easy to use their lunch or planning time one day per week to go into another classroom. This allows you to see other teachers and students besides your own. Please contact the Teacher Education Program Coordinator to discuss the details.

Jobs in childcare or daycare settings typically do not meet practicum requirements.

If you are an approved substitute teacher or have a job in a private school, you may be able to use that position for up to half of the required 45 hours. Please contact the Teacher Education Program Coordinator to discuss the details.

Q: What time and day will I go to my placement?

A: You will provide your desired schedule on your Placement Request Form, and we will do the best we can to align with your schedule. You should plan on doing about 4-5 hours per week to ensure you reach the minimum requirement. Please be aware – it can take several weeks to get you placed and started.

Q: Do I have to do anything else for the class besides go to the school?

A: There are both online and hard copy assignments required for the practicum:

- Online (myLearning): 10 InTASC Activities, the action research project, the electronic portfolio
- Hard copy: signed, completed Participation Log and Evaluation Form

Q: When does the course meet?

A: There is a required orientation meeting during the first or second week of the semester. There will be sessions at each campus – you only need to attend one session. Except for that first orientation, the class does not meet – you will instead be going to your assigned school placement each week for the semester.

Q: What about the criminal background check?

A: The three counties have different policies:

- Calvert County Public Schools does not require any additional forms.
- Charles County Public Schools requires practicum students to complete a volunteer form.
- St. Mary's County Public Schools requires students to complete the online volunteer screening, which has a \$9.95 fee.

Q: Who can I contact for more information?

A: Please contact Professor Beth Settle, Teacher Education Program Coordinator:

elizabeth.settle@csm.edu.

Leonardtown campus: C210, 240-725-5459

Prince Frederick campus: PFA 228, 443-550-6210