



## Getting Started with UTeach Replication

### Determining if UTeach is a Viable Option for Your University

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UTeach<sup>1</sup> is an innovative teacher preparation program for science, mathematics, and computer science majors that started in 1997 at The University of Texas at Austin (UT Austin). The program allows students to earn secondary teaching certification while completing a degree in one of these disciplines, in approximately the same time necessary to complete an equivalent degree *without* teaching certification.

The UTeach Institute was established in 2006 to provide direction and assistance to universities across the country interested in implementing UTeach programs. The UTeach Institute partners with a variety of organizations to support UTeach implementation at universities across the country.<sup>2</sup>

UTeach replication is typically a 5-year process supported by substantial grants administered directly to qualified universities, as well as ongoing implementation support and evaluation services provided by the UTeach Institute. Before a university applies for replication funding and support, we recommend that key stakeholders carefully consider whether UTeach is a worthwhile and feasible option.

This guide is designed to assist stakeholders at universities interested in UTeach replication in becoming familiar with the UTeach program model, assessing their own local needs, and examining their universities' capacity and commitment for successful implementation.

### Developing a Thorough Understanding of the UTeach Program Model

To make an informed decision about pursuing UTeach replication, it is first necessary to understand the instructional philosophy and operational details of the program. The documents included in the "Getting Started" kit available at <http://uteach-institute.org/publications> are intended to provide a snapshot of the fundamental features that make the UTeach model both innovative and successful. In particular, the *UTeach Elements of Success* document articulates the unique components of the model that also form the basis for the UTeach Institute's evaluative work, both in selecting universities for replication and evaluating program progress throughout the grant period.

### Assessing the Need and Potential for Increasing Teacher Production

The goal of the UTeach Institute is to increase the number of well prepared science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teachers. The strongest universities

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<sup>1</sup> Information on the UTeach program at UT Austin is available at <http://uteach.utexas.edu>.

<sup>2</sup> A list of the UTeach Institute's strategic partners is available at <http://uteach-institute.org/about/detail/partners/>. Current partners include The University of Texas at Austin, National Math and Science Initiative (NMSI), Exxon Mobil Corporation, Tennessee Higher Education Commission, Tennessee Department of Education, Texas High School Project, Texas Education Agency, Texas Instruments Foundation, Greater Texas Foundation, Michael and Susan Dell Foundation, Texas Regional Collaboratives, Georgia Governor's Office of Planning and Budget, and Massachusetts Department of Elementary and Secondary Education.

demonstrate both a need for and the potential to increase the number of STEM teachers they currently produce.

Stakeholders from universities interested in UTeach replication should consider the following questions:

1. *Is there a science, mathematics, or computer science teacher shortage in my community and/or state secondary schools?* Universities located within contexts with adequate numbers of these teachers are not strong candidates for UTeach replication.
2. *How many science and mathematics teachers does my university currently produce?* Universities already producing large numbers of teachers in these disciplines are not strong candidates for replication.
3. *Does my university have a sufficient pool of undergraduate science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) majors from which to recruit potential teachers?* Universities with particularly low numbers of STEM majors may want to delay pursuing UTeach replication and focus first on efforts to increase enrollment in the appropriate undergraduate departments.

## **Determining Institutional and Community Commitment**

Successful implementation of the UTeach model requires substantial institutional changes over time. To determine whether there are sufficient resources and a genuine commitment to institutional change, we suggest organizing a task force to thoroughly explore the following important questions. Deans of the involved colleges (e.g., science, education, and liberal arts equivalents), department chairs, faculty members, development officers, potential master teachers, school district representatives, and other stakeholders all should be involved.

1. *Is there a priority at the university president and provost levels to increase the number of STEM teachers produced by the university, as well as a commitment to provide budgetary support and adequate facilities?*
2. *Are content departments willing to require both a degree in the major and professional development courses to prepare high quality STEM teachers?*
3. *Are STEM departments willing to revise degree and certification plans to develop a program that students can complete in four years (i.e., 120 to 126 credit hours)?*
4. *Is there a willingness to replicate the UTeach program operational structure and curriculum with fidelity?*
5. *Are local school districts considered diverse and high-need, and are they willing to participate (i.e., provide host classrooms for field placements throughout the program)?*
6. *Is there a willingness to negotiate with state certification agencies to overcome any obstacles to UTeach replication (e.g., required field experience hours)?*
7. *Are there champions to act as co-directors who will facilitate collaboration across involved colleges and guide program implementation?*
8. *Is the College of Education (or equivalent) willing to phase out any competing undergraduate programs for secondary STEM teacher preparation?*
9. *Is faculty interest significant enough in the participating colleges to all required UTeach courses?*

## Resources

The documents included in the “Getting Started” kit available at <http://uteach-institute.org/publications> are intended to provide a snapshot of the fundamental features of the UTeach model.

- **UTeach Institute Brochure** – The UTeach Institute brochure provides a concise overview of UTeach and its national replication. The brochure provides a brief description of our strategy for program replication, current indicators of success, and an overview of funding partnerships.
- **UTeach Elements of Success** – The *UTeach Elements of Success* articulate the fundamental aspects and features of the UTeach program at UT Austin. The elements are specific enough for universities to begin to make informed decisions about whether UTeach is a good fit with local university priorities and characteristics.
- **UTeach Curriculum Overview** – This document outlines the instructional philosophy and curriculum of the UTeach program and describes how UTeach allows for flexible degree plans.
- **Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) About UTeach and UTeach Replication** – This document answers a variety of questions about UTeach and replication, including current indicators of the impact of national replication, the role of the UTeach Institute, etc.
- **UTeach Organizational Chart** – This document outlines the organizational structure of the UTeach program at UT Austin.
- **UTeach Role Descriptions** – This document describes the attributes, roles, and responsibilities for UTeach master teachers, faculty, and staff, and includes lessons learned from years of experience with the UTeach program at UT Austin.
- **Initiating a UTeach Program** – This chapter from the *UTeach Operations Manual* provides information on the planning needed to initiate a UTeach program, from gaining institutional commitment to program budgeting.
- **Interactive Budgeting Tool** – This Microsoft Excel spreadsheet can be used to construct a 5-year budget estimate for UTeach programs of different sizes.