

Getting Started: How to Determine if UTeach Replication is a Viable Option

Replication of the UTeach STEM teacher preparation program is a 5-year process supported by substantial grants administered directly to qualified universities, as well as ongoing implementation and evaluation services provided by the UTeach Institute. Before a university applies for funding and support, the Institute recommends that key stakeholders carefully consider whether UTeach replication is a viable option.

Develop a Thorough Understanding of the UTeach Program Model

To make an informed decision about replicating UTeach, it is first necessary to understand the instructional philosophy and operational details of the UTeach model. An overview of the model is available with through resource documents such as the UTeach Brochure, the Elements of Success, the Curriculum Overview, and a Replication Progress Snapshot, included with this information packet. The information is also available at the UTeach Institute Web site: <http://uteach-institute.org>.

Assess the Need and Potential for Increasing Teacher Production

The goal of the UTeach Institute is to increase the number of highly qualified science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) teachers. The strongest universities demonstrate both a need for and the potential to increase the number of teachers it currently produces. Consider the following questions:

1. Is there a STEM teacher shortage in your community and/or state secondary schools? If not, universities may not find support for implementing UTeach, and should consider other priorities.
2. How many STEM teachers are you currently producing? Universities already producing large numbers may not need to replicate UTeach.
3. Do you have a sufficient pool of undergraduate STEM majors from which to recruit more potential teachers? Universities with low numbers may want to delay replicating UTeach and focus on efforts to increase enrollment in the appropriate undergraduate departments.
4. Do you have a sufficient number of undergraduate STEM majors interested in teaching? The Institute recommends that applicants formally survey STEM majors and cite results that show the number of students who might consider teaching as a career.

Determine Institutional and Community Commitment

Successful implementation of the UTeach requires substantial institutional changes at a university. To determine whether there are sufficient resources and a genuine commitment, the Institute suggests organizing a “UTeach Fit Team,” including the deans of the colleges of Sciences, Liberal Arts, and Education, as well as department chairs, faculty members, development officers, potential master teachers, and school district representatives. The team should review the resources in the Resource List below and thoroughly explore the following important questions:

1. Is there a priority at the President and Provost levels to increase the number of STEM teachers produced and a commitment to provide budgetary support and adequate facilities?
2. Will content departments be willing to require both a degree in the major and professional development courses to prepare high quality STEM teachers?
3. Will departments be willing to revise degree and certification plans to develop a 4-year (120-126 credit hour) program?
4. Is there a willingness to replicate the UTeach program operational structure and curriculum with fidelity?
5. Do school districts with enough diverse classrooms to accommodate the program's field experiences, and would they be willing to participate?
6. Is there a willingness to negotiate with state certification agencies to overcome obstacles to replicating the innovative UTeach teacher preparation program?
7. Are there champions who will facilitate collaboration across the colleges of Education and Arts and Sciences?
8. Is there willingness to phase out any competing undergraduate programs for secondary STEM teacher preparation?
9. Are there enough engaged faculty members in all participating colleges to teach all the required UTeach courses?

Resource List

The Getting Started Kit, includes all of the following resources in one downloadable .zip archive. For a link to the kit and all available resources, visit <http://uteach-institute.org/replication/detail/getting-started/>

- **UTeach Brochure**
This document provides a concise overview of UTeach and UTeach replication. It includes the historical context behind the creation of the program and the establishment of the Institute, and briefly outlines the program's unique design philosophy and distinguishing characteristics. It also gives a brief description of the replication strategy, some current indicators of success, and an overview of funding partnerships.
- **Replication Snapshots and Summaries**
These items are a brief snapshot of the current status of UTeach Austin and nationwide program replication, as well as an 8-page report with a more in-depth summary of the first year's (2008-09) implementation progress at the 13 replication sites of Cohort 1. A statewide snapshot and summary report for Texas is also provided.
- **UTeach Elements of Success**
This document articulates the fundamental aspects and features of program success. It is specific for a university to make informed decisions about whether UTeach is a good fit with its own priorities and local characteristics. It also provides the Institute's criteria for evaluating the progress of program implementation at each of the replication sites.
- **UTeach Curriculum**
This document describes how UTeach Austin provides flexibility in its degree plans, as well as what key UTeach courses contribute to the curriculum. A replication site must

build similar flexibility into its program, either by adopting or adapting UTeach Austin's model, while at the same time take care to meet all applicable state and national requirements.

- **Frequently Asked Questions about UTeach**

This document answers a variety of questions related to who should apply for replication grants, various aspects of program design, program operations and budgeting, and preparing for a proposal.

- **Is UTeach a Solution for Your University?**

This document outlines some steps to take and questions to explore in order to determine if UTeach is an appropriate and viable option at your university. The strongest universities demonstrate both a sufficient pool of science and math majors to recruit into the new certification program and the capacity to increase the number of secondary math and science teachers currently produced.

- **Sample RFP**

This Request for Proposal gives an example of the process for applying for 5-year implementation grants and support for local UTeach program replication. The 2009 competition in Texas also represents a model for other statewide initiatives. A similar approach has been used in Tennessee.

- **UTeach Organization Chart and Program Role Descriptions**

These first of these documents show the organizational Structure of UTeach within The University of Texas at Austin. The other describes the attributes, roles, and responsibilities for UTeach faculty, Master Teachers, and Staff. It includes Lessons Learned from many years of experience.

- **Initiating a UTeach Program with Interactive Budgeting Tool**

This zipped download contains 1) a pdf document with information on the types of planning needed to initiate a UTeach program, including examples of how to get a program up and running, from gaining institutional commitment to budgeting for a UTeach program, and 2) a Microsoft Excel spreadsheet to assist with constructing a 5-year budget estimate.