# Messiah University

# Teacher Education Program

# SEMESTER AT A GLANCE

# Fall 2025

CO-TEACHING IN THE PROFESSIONAL SEMESTER

Messiah University has adopted a co-teaching model for our teacher candidates in the professional semester. The co-teaching model promotes on-going collaboration between the cooperating teacher and the teacher candidate with training provided for both parties to support the implementation of co-teaching strategies and co-planning sessions throughout the student teaching experience.

From the first days on, the teacher candidate and the cooperating teacher are actively engaged in the instructional setting by incorporating the varied co-teaching strategies. This innovative model provides a comprehensive and rigorous experience for teacher candidates, allows the cooperating teachers to remain actively involved in classroom decision making and activities, and enhances the K-12 students’ learning.

The co-teaching model allows the teacher candidate to gain in-depth understanding of students’ needs, curriculum design, classroom management, instructional strategies, and professional collaboration. As the cooperating teacher and teacher candidate implement the seven co-teaching strategies and weeks progress, the teacher candidate assumes more responsibility, ultimately taking the lead in planning, teaching, and assessing. The teacher candidate will also engage in solo-teaching opportunities throughout the semester, ensuring independent practice and decision-making skills.

Access the Professional Semester Handbook at [www.messiah.edu/teacher](http://www.messiah.edu/teacher) , “**School hosts**” tab

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| **Events & Dates** | **Event Description** | **Notes or References**  ***(Professional Semester Handbook)*** |
| **Wednesday, August 27**  **4:00-6:00pm**  **Working dinner**  **at Messiah University** | Co-teaching Training | Co-teaching essentials and strategy instruction for **cooperating teachers and teacher candidates** who have not been previously trained. |
| **Wednesday, August 27**  **5:45-7:15pm**  **at Messiah University** | Pairs Workshop | The goal of the Pairs Workshop is to provide the **cooperating teacher and teacher candidate** time to develop a professional relationship and learn student teaching semester requirements. |
| **Thursday, August 28**  **8:30am-3:30pm** | High Impact Strategies Training, CAIU (teacher candidates only) | All teacher candidates participate in High Impact Strategies Professional Development |
| **Monday, Sept. 15** | First day in field placement #1 |  |
| **University Supervisor** **Initial Visit**  *(Within the first two weeks)* | Supervisors will observe the teacher candidate interacting in the school and address questions the co-op may have. | Supervisor may combine initial visit with first formal observation. |
| **Field Placement #1**  **(9/15-10/31)**  ***If Applicable:***  **November 3**  **First Day in Field Placement #2**  **(11/3-12/17)** | Teacher candidates and cooperating teachers will engage in co-planning sessions and incorporate co-teaching strategies; teacher candidates will gradually take the lead in co-planning and classroom management, incorporating solo teaching opportunities including some full time teaching when appropriate. | pg. 5 of Handbook, Overview of Professional Semester  Cooperating teacher completes performance observation form at least once per week with the goal of turning in **10** at the end of semester (5 per placement for those with two assignments).  University Supervisor conducts **5** live observations by end of semester |
| **October 16** | Video 1 and self-reflection due in Canvas | Follow instructions in Canvas |
| **Mid-Term Evaluation Period**  **(10/24-11/3)** | Formative evaluations done collaboratively in a three-way conference, including the teacher candidate, co-op, and the Messiah University supervisor. This will serve to monitor progress and to set goals for the second half of the student teaching experience. | Appendix C of Handbook   * University supervisor and cooperating teacher complete Messiah University Midterm Evaluation Form. Forms signed electronically by all three participants to complete process. * Messiah University supervisor completes PDE 430. Form signed by Messiah University supervisor and student.   ***\**Due** for TEP Office review by **11/3** |
| *Note: HPE and Art may change placements at this time.*  *Acclimation time is expected to acquaint the teacher candidate with the new school setting.* | | |
| **December 4** | Video 2 and self-reflection due in Canvas | Follow instructions in Canvas |
| **Final Evaluation Period**  **(12/8-12/17)** | Electronic Messiah University Final Evaluation Form completed by the co-op and Messiah University Supervisor. The MU Supervisor and the teacher candidate will conference. | Appendix C of Handbook   * Messiah University supervisor and cooperating teacher collaboratively complete Messiah University Final Evaluation Form. Form signed electronically by all three participants to complete process. * Messiah University supervisor completes PDE 430. Form signed by Messiah University supervisor and student.   **\*Due** for TEP Office review by **12/17** |
| **December 17** | Last day of Student Teaching |  |
| **December 18** | Portfolio Fair  8:30-11:00 a.m. | Mandatory attendance on this morning for all teacher candidates |