

Common Terms and Definitions Used in Educator Preparation Programs

Purpose: To establish a clear, shared understanding of key educator preparation pathways and credentialing terminology.

- Field experience
- Practicum
- Student Teaching
- Teacher Residency/Internship
- Teacher Apprenticeship
- Clinical Hours
- Endorsement

Field experience or practicum are the introductory, bite-sized experiences an aspiring teacher completes early in their **traditional education preparation program**. This is purely for meeting the requirement for course credit.



Pre-service teachers visit local K-12 classrooms for a set number of hours (usually ranging from 15 to 100+ total hours) while concurrently enrolled in a traditional college education preparation program.



Primarily observational. Pre-service teachers start by watching a veteran teacher, grading papers, or working with small groups, and may eventually progress to delivering a single, isolated lesson.



Unpaid.



Licensing is not required or earned.



Not eligible for stipends.

Student Teaching



Student teaching is the classic, culminating experience of a **traditional university teacher preparation program**. As pre-service teachers they are paying tuition to the university for this experience and earn credit.



A full-time, immersive experience lasting one academic semester (typically 12 to 16 weeks). Pre-service teachers are placed in a classroom with a "cooperating teacher" who mentors them.



Gradual takeover. Pre-service teachers start by co-teaching, move to full control of the classroom (planning, teaching, grading, and parent communication) for several weeks, and then gradually hand the classroom back.



Historically unpaid. Nevada currently supports student teachers on a traditional pathway by offering stipends during their final semester of student teaching.



A standard or provisional state educator license may be earned after completion of student teaching, degree conferment, and meeting all other requirements.



Eligible for **Incentivizing Pathways to Teaching** funds

Teacher Residency/Internship



A residency/internship is typically part of an **Alternative Route to Licensure (ARL)** program designed for individuals who already hold a bachelor's degree in another field and want to transition into teaching quickly.



A full multi-year commitment where you are hired as the **teacher of record**. This means you have your own classroom from day one. You receive mentoring from your program, district, and school site.



Full responsibility. There is no gradual takeover; you are managing the classroom, designing curriculum, and evaluating students independently while completing the required coursework in the evenings or online.



Fully paid. You receive a first-year teacher's salary and benefits because you are a contracted teacher.



Provisional state educator license is granted prior to completion of coursework. The license is converted to a standard license by completion of program and testing requirements.



Eligible for Teach Nevada Scholarship.

Teacher Apprenticeship



Teacher apprenticeships are a newer, rapidly growing model **registered with the U.S. Department of Labor**. In NV to officially be designated as an “apprenticeship program”, the program must be registered with Nevada’s Office of the Labor Commissioner. Modeled after ARL programs to remove financial barriers to entering the profession, often targeting school support professionals, paraprofessionals, and substitute teachers to become teachers.



A multi-year, deeply collaborative partnership between a school district, a university, and the state.



You work under the supervision of teacher for an extended period (often 1 to 3 years) while completing their degree.



Fully paid. You are a salaried substitute of the school district and transition to a full-time teaching contract upon degree conferment.



An apprenticeship license is granted when students begin their four-semester undergraduate apprenticeship program and have accumulated at least 60 university credits.



“multi-source braided funding program” as the scholarships, grants, etc. can be from a mix of funding sources.

Clinical Hours



In NV, clinical hours are required by the appropriate licensing boards for school counselors, social workers, nurses, etc., as well as some Business and Industry content areas. Health professional clinical hours are supervised, direct-service hours where a trainee acts as a practitioner to manage the physical health, mental well-being, or chemical/anatomical safety of a living client.



Trainees spend a set number of hours in face-to-face contact with actual patients or clients in an approved, supervised clinical setting, including schools if applicable while concurrently taking college methods courses.



Trainees practice under the direction of a licensed practitioner and university supervisor. These supervisors are legally and ethically responsible for the care delivered, actively monitoring the trainee, providing immediate course correction, and formally signing off on the candidate's clinical competency.



Historically unpaid, however this depends on the role and degree.



Provisional or standard state educator license is granted after completion of required degree, obtaining the appropriate state licensing board license, and meeting any additional state educator license requirements.



Not eligible for current educational stipends/scholarships

Endorsement



In NV, an endorsement is an additional certification added to the base educator license **specifying exactly which subjects, grade levels, or student populations you are legally qualified and authorized to teach.**



A base license covers a broad area; a license kind. An endorsement narrows that down to a specific discipline or specialty.



To earn an endorsement, an educator must prove competency in that specific area by completing a state-approved college program, accumulating a major/minor in that subject, or passing designated Praxis exams.



Educators pay to have an endorsement added to their base license.



Secondary License (*kind*), Mathematics (*endorsement*)

Elementary license (*kind*), *Elementary License (endorsement)*, *English Language Acquisition & Development (enhancement endorsement)*

Business and Industry license (*kind*), Advanced Computer Science (*endorsement*)



No state funding available to cover the cost of endorsements.