The Urban Teacher Preparation Academy (UTPA) prepares pre-service teachers to better serve diverse student in high-need Oklahoma City public schools. The program places selected upper-level education majors in Oklahoma City Public elementary, middle and high schools for a yearlong student teaching experience. This is followed by a two-year induction experience that includes monthly specialized professional development opportunities and ongoing mentoring by specially trained OKCPS teachers and administrators.

To be considered for acceptance to the Urban Teacher Preparation Academy, applicants must be a teacher ed/TE-Plus student, and have an interest in teaching in the Oklahoma City Public Schools district.

There are more schools wanting UTPA graduates than there are graduates available. To date, all UTPA graduates who wanted to stay in OKC have been employed by OKCPS - although not necessarily in the building where they completed their internship (e.g. due to lack of openings at the internship site).

KICK YOUR CAREER INTO HIGH GEAR WITH URBAN TEACHER PREPARATION ACADEMY

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UTPA offers many advantages for participants, including:
• Year-long student teaching experience with intensive mentoring
• Additional mentoring during the first years of employment with OKCPS
• Enhanced curriculum
• Membership in the UTPA network - an exclusive group of committed and highly effective urban educators

Financial incentives for UTPA interns:
• UTPA scholarships
• Cost of living stipend
• Funds for classroom supplies

Financial incentives for UTPA early career teachers:
• UTPA scholarships
• Funds for classroom supplies
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The Urban Teacher Preparation Academy has three goals:
• Enhancing the preparation of pre-service teachers to better serve the diverse needs of students in high-need schools in urban environments.
• Enhancing clinical experiences for pre-service teachers.
• Enhancing support for early career teachers via the UTPA professional network.

Candidates may begin internship/student teaching in a fall or spring semester. Ideally candidates apply to UTPA one year prior to the internship/student teaching semester.

Application and Orientation

| Semester 1 | Students apply to UTPA. Selection committee screens applications. UTPA cohort is established. |
| Semester 2 | Selected students begin specialized orientation to Oklahoma City Public Schools and Oklahoma City community service. |

Internship

| Semester 1 | UTPA candidates begin their full-year internship/student teaching experience with specially-trained supervisors. Preparation is supplemented by monthly face-to-face UTPA meetings. During this semester interns become full-time employees of OKCPS with salary and benefits. |
| Semester 2 | Student teaching continues. In light of current teacher shortage, early release from student teaching at the end of semester 1 is possible. Proper procedures must be followed. |

Employment with OKCPS

| 1st and 2nd year of teaching | UTPA will continue to provide monthly face-to-face professional development sessions to early career teachers in the UTPA network. UTPA candidates will have a specifically trained master teacher as a mentor. |

TO APPLY OR LEARN MORE: Dr. Teresa DeBacker, Associate Dean
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