



Aspire Teacher Prep

A Residency Licensure Teacher Preparation Program

Frequently Asked Questions

This FAQ is to help you learn more about Aspire Teacher Prep.

1. How long are programs in Aspire Teacher Prep?

- Program pathways are 15 months in length.
- We offer rolling admission with cohorts beginning in Spring and Fall each year.

2. What does residency licensure program mean?

- The Residency Licensure is a one-year pathway, renewable up to two times, for teacher candidates who meet requirements of licensure but may still need pedagogy (the art of teaching) requirements. In other words, Residence license are one-year in length for teachers enrolled in an approved EPP program as they move towards full licensure.

3. What are the admissions requirements for Aspire Teacher Prep?

- To be admitted into Aspire Teacher Prep, teacher candidates must meet the following requirements:
 - Hold, at a minimum, a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
 - Complete 24 hours of coursework in the requested licensure area **OR** passed the North Carolina State Board of Education (NCSBE) required content area examination(s) for the requested licensure area (Praxis II).
 - Have employment within a school district.
 - If you are not currently fully employed with a school district Aspire Teacher Prep will be unable to enroll you into classes.
 - Have a 2.7 GPA across all undergraduate and graduate transcripts.
- We encourage all candidates to have a conversation with Aspire Teacher Prep's Program Director if there are questions about these requirements.

4. What pathways are offered at Aspire Teacher Prep?

- Currently, Aspire Teacher Prep licenses teacher candidates in all core subject areas 6-12 (Science, Math, ELA, Social Studies), and CTE areas.
- We are currently not enrolling candidates into our Special Education General Curriculum pathway as of Spring 2020
- We currently do not have elementary level pathways.



- 5. May I participate in more than one pathway of Aspire Teacher Prep if I am interested in dual licensure?**
 - No. You will have the option to choose one pathway towards licensure. Your pathway must match the area in which you currently teach.
- 6. Does Aspire Teacher Prep include placement?**
 - No. Residency teacher candidates are required to seek their own employment and be employed by a school district prior to enrolling in Aspire Teacher Prep.
- 7. Are classes online or in-person?**
 - Aspire Teacher Prep Programs currently offers all classes and supports online.
- 8. What type of work can I expect to do during courses in my pathway?**
 - Aspire Teacher Prep pathways are designed to support you in becoming a teacher leader. Teacher candidates can expect to engage in virtual class. meetings and coaching sessions. Asynchronously, candidates will work through rigorous course units engaging in readings, activities, and assignments and receive formative feedback from their instructional coach and instructor.
 - Pace of courses do vary. Expect to engage in online module work weekly for 6-12 weeks, between 4-8 hours, depending on the course.
 - Teacher candidates also belong to multi-disciplinary cohorts facilitated by an instructional coach to form effective Professional Learning Communities (PLC).
- 9. What types of supports will I receive while in Aspire Teacher Prep?**
 - Aspire Teacher Prep is dedicated to our candidates. Each of our teacher candidates has a dedicated coach, instructor, and program director all focused on meeting candidates where they are and helping them to be successful in the program and beyond.
- 10. What makes Aspire Teacher Prep unique?**
 - Small cohorts for personalized instruction and support.
 - Non-traditional coursework that is practice-based and draws on the experiences you have in your classroom.
 - Coaching support focuses on your development and goals as a teacher.
 - Life experience and reflection is valued and used to strengthen classroom instruction and who you are as a teacher leader.



11. What is the tuition for Aspire Teacher Prep programs?

- The current tuition rate for Aspire Teacher Prep programs is \$6,000, all-inclusive. Tuition for programs can be paid all up front or in quarterly payments. Programs for Aspire Teacher Prep begin in February and September. The first payment for Aspire Teacher Prep is due upon registration and enrollment into the program. Other payments will be due prior to the start of each course. Additional information regarding tuition payments will be shared with you once you apply and are accepted into a program. If you have questions regarding tuition or are interested in applying or learning more, please do not hesitate to contact the program director.

12. When will the program director sign my Residency Licensure (RL) form for my HR director to submit to NC Department of Public Instruction so that I may be issued a Residency License?

- Residency Licensure (RL) forms will be completed and submitted to your HR director once you have been accepted into Aspire Teacher Prep, employment has been confirmed, and tuition has been paid for the first course.

13. When I complete the program, will I have a clear North Carolina Teaching License?

- If you have a Residency License, then at the successful completion of the program (including passing the edTPA and submission of your principal's evaluation), you will be recommended for a full license by Aspire Teacher Prep.
- Aspire Teacher Prep will recommend you but you will need to go through the online system to initiate the clearing of your license and pay the applicable fees. We will assist you with this process.

14. What is the edTPA?

- The edTPA is a national, subject-specific portfolio-based assessment of teaching performance that is complete by teacher candidates to demonstrate their readiness for a full-time classroom teaching assignment and licensure.
- To complete the edTPA, teacher candidates apply what they have learned from coursework about research, theory, and strategies related to teaching and learning by providing artifacts documenting teaching and learning during a learning segment lasting approximately one week and commentaries explaining, analyzing, or reflecting on artifacts.
- Candidates cannot be recommended for licensure without successful completion of the edTPA.

15. Who do I contact if I want to learn more or talk through questions that I have?

- Fredrica Nash, Program Director, can be contacted by phone 919.423.0611 or email fnash@rti.org.



16. What is included in an application packet?

- Online Components
 - i. Aspire Teacher Prep online application
- Submission via email to fnash@rti.org
 - i. All Official transcripts
 - ii. Praxis II scores, where applicable
 - iii. Copy of Temporary license, where applicable
 - iv. Current resume

17. Where can I get an application if I am ready to apply?

- Applications are accepted on a rolling basis and can be completed from our website <https://educationservices.rti.org/aspire.html>.