



Arizona Teacher Residency Frequently Asked Questions

What makes this program different from other teacher preparation programs in Arizona?

The Arizona Teacher Residency is different from most other programs in Arizona because it:

- requires a yearlong intensive apprenticeship in partnering schools where residents slowly ramp up their instructional responsibilities under the guidance of a strong supervising teacher prior to becoming a teacher of record.
- is a two-year graduate program leading to a master's degree through NAU, with coursework that revolves around residents' classroom experience.
- offers direct support to residents and supervising teachers in the form of sizable stipends and extensive professional development opportunities.
- supports residents through two years of induction after they become teachers of record and then sets them up to be able to pursue National Board Certification, which we hope most will choose to do.
- requires a three-year commitment to teaching in partnering districts after the residency year.

Who are the district partners?

The initial partner districts include Osborn School District, Roosevelt School District, and Tempe Elementary School District. The program will expand in coming years to partner with additional districts across the state.

How can school districts get involved?

Please sign up for updates about the Arizona Teacher Residency [at this link](#) and mark your interest as a school or district in partnering.

How can individual educators, community organizations, funders get involved?

Please reach out to us at aztr@azk12.org.

How will the supervising teachers in partner districts be selected? Will they be compensated?

Supervising teachers will be selected through a community nomination process. From these nominations, we will invite teachers to apply. After careful review, selected teachers will be invited to an interview which will include an observation. Selected supervising teachers will receive a \$2,000 stipend during the residency year for their work in supporting their resident. Supervising teachers will also receive training and additional professional learning opportunities from the Arizona k12 Center.



For Potential Applicants

How long is the program?

The Arizona Teacher Residency is a two-year graduate program, with each resident serving one year as a teaching apprentice, followed by one year as an 'AZTR teaching fellow' when they are the teacher of record in their classroom. Residents receive two years of induction support (in their second year in the program and also the following year). In total, residents commit to a school district for four years (one year as an apprentice and three years as a teacher of record). We will be enrolling our first cohort in the summer of 2022. They will graduate with their master's degree from NAU in the late spring of 2024.

Can residents do this program from anywhere in Arizona?

No. Residents must work in a partnering district throughout the residency year.

Can residents teach anything? Or is this program only for certain grade levels or subject areas?

In our first year, we will only offer a master's degree plus certification in elementary education, which prepares an educator to teach kindergarten through eighth grade. The coursework will be generalist in nature, as opposed to focused on a particular content area like math, science, or art.

In coming years, we are planning to offer secondary certification to serve high schools and will determine concentrations based on the needs present in partnering schools/districts.

Is the coursework all online?

No. In the first year, most coursework will be taught in-person by faculty affiliated with the Arizona Teacher Residency and the Arizona K12 Center at Northern Arizona University. These courses will take place all-day on Fridays and once a week after the K-12 school day.

In the second year, when residents become teachers of record, most of the coursework will be online.

There is also required coursework during the summers before and after the resident's first year that will be taught in a hybrid format.

Am I eligible to apply?

You are eligible to apply if you have (or will have by spring of 2022) a bachelor's degree in any concentration



How do I apply?

These are the steps to apply to the Arizona Teacher Residency:

1. Complete this [application form](#) as soon as possible, but by January 7 at the latest.
2. If selected to continue on in the selection process we will reach out to you to complete additional steps, including submitting a personal statement, unofficial transcripts, a resumé, and three references; applying to NAU's Master's in Elementary Education plus Certification Program; and finally, attending a selection day event.

When will the program announce admission decisions?

Late spring of 2022.

How many residents will you accept?

We expect to accept about 30 residents in our first cohort but will be expanding the cohorts every year, resources permitting. The goal is to support annual cohorts of 100 residents across the state.

When does the program start for the first cohort?

The first cohort will begin the program with a two-week summer institute at Northern Arizona University in Flagstaff, Arizona, in mid-July 2022. All residents are expected to be in attendance for the entire institute. Residents will begin their apprenticeship in schools at the beginning of August 2022.

How much is the living stipend and when is it given?

In their first year of the program, residents will receive a \$15,000 stipend. Additionally, the program can offer health care to residents who need it, as well as other sources of direct support.

In the second year, along with finishing their master's degree coursework, residents will be employed by the district and receive a salary for teaching full time.

How much will residents have to pay for this program?

Most applicants will have very little out-of-pocket cost. Arizona residents can apply to the [Arizona Teachers Academy](#) to cover their master's degree tuition at NAU. Funding provided by the Arizona Department of Education will cover other program expenses.

Residents will be expected to pay for their Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card and any required books for courses.



Is there a minimum required teaching commitment?

Yes, this is a four-year commitment in total: one year as a teaching apprentice and three years as a teacher of record. When residents enroll in the program, they must sign an agreement that states they will commit to serving as a teacher for the three years after their residency year in the same district/school in which they are prepared. This amounts to a four-year minimum commitment to a partnering district.