

Teacher Education: Components and Challenges

Core Components: Sites

- Prior experience
- Liberal arts general studies
- Academic study (majors and minors)
 - Varies whether these are the same or different as the “standard” disciplinary majors
- Clinical study and practice
 - Phase and purposes: Early, practicum, student teaching
 - Varied “reality”: e.g., cases/videos/artifacts; real schools, lab schools
- Education coursework
 - Foundations
 - Instructional methods
- Induction
 - Mentoring
 - Formal study

What is the “curriculum” of professional education?

- Beliefs
- Knowledge
 - Subject matter
 - Theory
 - Practices, instructional methods
- Elements of teachers' work (common example: planning)

Challenges of Teacher Preparation

1. Determining who gets in and out and with what capacities: admissions, monitoring, exit requirements
2. Preparing teachers to know subject matter in the ways needed for teaching
3. Integrating coursework with practice
4. Focusing beyond beliefs, knowledge, analysis, and reflection to actual practice
5. Preparing teachers to work with wide variety of learners, particularly under-served populations
6. Choosing what aspects of professional practice should be developed at what point, and to what level of proficiency
7. Linking initial teacher preparation with continued professional training
8. Assessing performance
9. Instructor qualifications