

Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, & Advancement

TEACHER CADETS

Teaching is one of the most rewarding and impactful careers, offering the chance to shape lives, inspire future generations, and make a lasting difference every single day. The Teacher Cadet Program, offered by the Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA), ignites that passion early by introducing high school students to the excitement and fulfillment of a career in education.

Through engaging coursework and real classroom experiences, the program helps students discover the joy of teaching, the power of connections, and the opportunity to lead with purpose. Since its launch in 1985, the Teacher Cadet Program has inspired more than 80,000 South Carolina students, many of whom have gone on to become dedicated, life-changing educators.

With a focus on cultivating diverse, talented, and passionate future teachers, this program is transforming the future of education, one Cadet at a time.

Overview

The Center for Educator Recruitment, Retention, and Advancement (CERRA) offers the nationally recognized Teacher Cadet Program—a college-level course designed to inspire high-achieving high school students to explore teaching as a career. Through a rigorous curriculum and real-world field experiences, students gain meaningful insight into the education profession and the challenges facing today's schools.

The program includes two courses: Experiencing Education and Educational Psychology. After completing Experiencing Education, students may choose to take Educational Psychology, which includes a nine-week extended field experience connecting theory to practice. The course is offered for dual credit and requires a minimum of one class period per day throughout the academic year or the equivalent in instructional hours.

Each year, nearly 3,000 students from close to 200 South Carolina high schools participate. These schools partner with local teacher preparation institutions, known as College Partners, which provide enrichment opportunities and support. Articulation agreements with these institutions allow eligible students to earn college credit upon successful course completion.

Why Does My School Need Teacher Cadets?

Now more than ever, it is critical to recruit high-achieving, motivated students into the teaching profession. The Teacher Cadet Program helps spark that interest by encouraging academically talented students to explore education as a rewarding and impactful career. While some enter the course undecided about their future, the Teacher Cadet experience frequently leads them to pursue careers within the education field.

The program's hands-on, experience-based curriculum introduces students to the knowledge, skills, and personal qualities needed to become an effective educator. One of its most powerful components is a classroom internship, which allows students to apply what they've learned in a real-world setting. In addition to developing future educators, the program fosters a deeper appreciation for the teaching profession and often inspires students to become advocates for education policy and improvement.

Teacher Cadet Curriculum

A Glimpse Into the Curriculum

Teacher Cadet: Experiencing Education, Twelfth Edition

CERRA is excited to introduce the 12th Edition of Experiencing Education in a new digital format. This updated platform provides Teacher Cadet instructors with a comprehensive, user-friendly curriculum designed to guide students as they explore teaching and other careers in education.

The curriculum is structured into six modules featuring engaging, hands-on, and rigorous activities that mirror the real-world experiences of educators. It includes essential materials to help instructors launch the course and provides ongoing resources to support instruction throughout the year.

Experiencing Education promotes creativity in teaching and encourages student collaboration, problem-solving, and team building. When implemented with fidelity, it lays a strong foundation for understanding the education profession and motivates students to consider a future in the field.

A Glimpse Into the Curriculum

Teacher Cadet: Educational Psychology

The Educational Psychology curriculum is designed to help students understand the foundations of psychology in education. It encourages students to think deeply about the psychological principles of human learning and to connect these principles to their lives and the lives of those around them. Throughout the course, students are provided with the opportunity to apply the concepts, theoretical principles, and research findings through the planning and implementation of effective instructional practices in the classroom. The course is also composed of ongoing activities that allow students to experience a deeper level of teaching as a career through an extended field experience, service learning projects, and exploring the civic responsibilities of educators. At the conclusion of the course, we hope that students will feel prepared to step into an education preparation program at a college or university with a deeper understanding of education as a profession and a firm foundation of the impacts that the psychology of human learning has on teaching and working with students of all ages.

Student Eligibility Requirements

Students must:

- Be a junior or senior
- Have a minimum 3.0 GPA, unweighted
- Be enrolled in a college preparatory curriculum
- Not have any notable disciplinary infractions during the last academic year
- Exhibit dependable attendance and timeliness
- Submit a student application
- Have recommendations completed by at least two instructors (at least one academic instructor)

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For more information, visit cerra.org or scan the QR code.

Connect with us on Facebook **@cerrasc**

College Partners

Teacher Cadet College Partners are post-secondary institutions with accredited teacher preparation programs that support the development of future educators. Each partner institution has an articulation agreement in place, allowing Teacher Cadets to earn dual credit upon successful completion of the course. Visit cerra.org for a list of our College Partners.

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