

III. ARC Program Components

Students are expected to complete ARC's four major components:

1. **Orientation Meeting:** Enrolled students must attend a mandatory orientation session. Students will have access to the *ARC Student Handbook* describing policies, student expectations, CSDE certification regulations, and class schedules. Students will also have an opportunity to meet with program staff and faculty, tour the facility, and may receive additional assignments.
2. **Core Course:** Highly skilled teachers, administrators, and other experts in the field instruct ARC students on the foundations of teaching while modeling various teaching strategies. The curriculum includes relevant state and federal laws mandated in all teacher preparation programs and covers topics such as: Common Core State Standards, classroom management, differentiated instruction, lesson/unit planning, assessment of student learning, special education and Section 504, English Language Learners and integrating technology in the classroom.
3. **Methods Course:** Highly experienced subject area teachers and administrators teach ARC students how to plan, assess students, and teach their specific content. This includes how to plan lessons in their subject area and receive instruction in various teaching strategies, classroom management, student behavior, and how to analyze and assess student work. Students are required to complete reflective commentary (modeled after edTPA) and develop, plan and instruct micro-teaching lessons to practice key concepts.
4. **Student Practicum:** The student practicum experience is the culminating activity in the ARC program and requires the contributions of a team of professionals who work together to provide a practical introduction to teaching. The student practicum placement is assigned by the ARC program and is determined by the candidate's area of certification and appropriate range of grade levels. The ARC administration makes final decisions about student practicum placements for students.

Please note:

- All student practicum placements must occur in CT public schools.
- ARC students who are offered employment during their program training by school districts as long-term substitutes or under a Durational Shortage Area Permit (DSAP) issued by CSDE should immediately contact the ARC Office. Passing Praxis or ACTFL scores must be obtained before arrangements will be made for the practicum or before a Durational Shortage Area Permit (DSAP) will be approved.
- The practicum is an eight-week period (40-consecutive days).
- The purpose of the student practicum is to provide students with an opportunity, under careful supervision, to develop the knowledge, skills, and dispositions necessary to become effective teachers.
- During the student practicum, a trained cooperating teacher from the school district and an evaluator from the ARC program will evaluate students.
- All ARC candidates will be required to submit and pass the edTPA Assessment as required by the Connecticut State Department of Education.

Program Completion and Employment upon ARC Completion

1. Students enrolled in ARC must meet all program requirements and policies including, but not limited to, attendance, punctuality, submitting all work assigned by faculty by the established due dates, and successful completion of the student practicum. **In addition, ARC students may be required to complete other program requirements and/or state regulations that may not be in effect at the time of admission. No student will be recommended for certification unless all requirements and obligations are met.**
2. Students who successfully complete the ARC program and all state certification requirements including coursework and testing, receive a recommendation form from ARC titled “ED 125 – Statement of Preparing Higher Education Institution.” This form qualifies ARC graduates to be hired by any Connecticut public school per the recommendation from the superintendent or designee of the district.

Students who are hired by a public school district for a teaching position that is considered permanent are eligible to receive a “Temporary 90-Day Certificate” from CSDE. **Graduates must be hired for a permanent teaching position (full- or part-time) or a long-term substitute position of at least ninety-days in their ARC area of study.** If teaching in a part-time position (less than 50% or .4 or less), graduates must renew their Temporary 90-Day Certificate and serve successfully for another 90-days. Time is prorated to meet the 90-day full-time teaching requirement.

3. The Temporary 90-day Certificate allows ARC graduates to be employed in a district while receiving support from the district and ARC. The ARC graduate, following the 90-day period and upon the recommendation from the Superintendent of Schools, receives an Initial Educator Certificate from CSDE, the same certificate awarded to all beginning teachers in Connecticut.
4. ARC provides voluntary instructional coaching to graduates to assist with their transition to teaching. The coach is employed by ARC, provides non-evaluative support, and does not participate in the district’s formal teacher evaluation process, such as the Teacher Education and Mentoring (TEAM) Program.

Finding a Teaching Position

The ARC program does not find or guarantee teaching positions for its graduates. ARC shares information about job openings with candidates. School districts often contact ARC to recruit ARC graduates for job openings.

Teacher Vacancies

Some important resources for those seeking teaching positions include the [Connecticut Association of Schools \(CAS\)](#), the [Connecticut Education Association \(CEA\)](#), and the [Connecticut Regional Education Alliance Program \(CTREAP\)](#).

More information about obtaining certification and applying for teaching positions after ARC is available [here](#).

Social Security and Teaching in Connecticut

Connecticut teachers are part of the [Connecticut Teacher Retirement System](#) and are not allowed to contribute to Social Security. **Connecticut teachers who are eligible for Social Security benefits may have benefits reduced if they retire under the Connecticut Teacher Retirement System.**