

The Delaware Teacher Academy Middle School Program is a comprehensive three-course Career and Technical Education (CTE) initiative designed to introduce students to the rewarding field of education. The program provides a foundational understanding of both early childhood and K-12 education careers, highlighting the critical role and lasting impact of teachers in society. Through a combination of classroom instruction, community involvement, and hands-on field experiences, students will develop essential knowledge and skills that foster their interest in pursuing a future in education.

The program emphasizes the exploration of education as a career pathway, equipping students with the tools to seamlessly transition into the high school Teacher Academy Program of Study. It also encourages early preparation for a variety of roles in early childhood and K-12 education settings. In addition to educational skills, the program fosters leadership and community engagement, preparing students to become both educators and community leaders.

By completing the Delaware Teacher Academy Middle School Program, students gain invaluable experience that not only prepares them for high school education programs but also opens early career opportunities in the education field.

**Course:** Teacher Academy 7: Introduction to Careers in Education

**ESchool/Infinite Campus Name:** TA 7: Intro to Careers in Education

**Knowledge and Skills Statement:**

By the end of this course, students will:

1. **Understanding Educational Pathways**: Identify various career pathways in the field of education, including early childhood, elementary, secondary, special education, and support roles (e.g., counselors, administrators).
2. **Communication Skills in Education**: Develop effective verbal and written communication skills necessary for interacting with students, parents, and colleagues in an educational setting.
3. **Classroom Observation and Reflection**: Engage in classroom observations and reflect on teaching styles, student engagement, and classroom dynamics to understand the role of a teacher.
4. **Leadership and Teamwork in Education**: Explore leadership roles within an educational environment and the importance of collaboration among teachers, support staff, and administrators.

5. **Cultural Competency and Inclusivity**: Understand the importance of culturally responsive teaching practices and the role of equity and inclusion in education.
6. **Understanding Educational Technology**: Learn how to utilize educational technologies to enhance learning and support diverse student needs.
7. **Career and College Readiness in Education**: Investigate the educational requirements for different teaching careers, including necessary degrees, certifications, and training programs.
8. **Ethics and Professionalism in Education**: Explore the ethical responsibilities of educators, including maintaining confidentiality, acting as role models, and adhering to professional standards.
9. **Understanding Learning Styles**: Recognize and differentiate between various learning styles (e.g., visual, auditory, kinesthetic) and how they impact teaching and learning.
10. **Exploring the Role of Teachers as Mentors**: Investigate how teachers serve as mentors and role models, fostering personal and academic growth in students.
11. **Community Engagement and Service Learning**: Participate in service-learning or community projects to gain practical experience in educational settings and reflect on the broader impact of education in the community.

These knowledge and skills statements will help middle school students build a foundation in educational theory, practice, and career exploration.

**Course:** Teacher Academy 8A: Education Career Readiness

**ESchool/Infinite Campus Name:** TA 8A: Education Career Readiness

**Knowledge and Skills Statement:**

By the end of this course, students will:

1. **Lesson Planning:** Demonstrate the ability to design developmentally appropriate activities that align with learning objectives/goals.
2. **Classroom Communication:** Practice effective communication strategies, including active listening, providing clear instructions, and engaging with students in meaningful dialogue.
3. **Adaptability in Instruction:** Modify instructional strategies to accommodate students' diverse learning needs, including students with disabilities and multilingual learners.
4. **Student Engagement:** Apply techniques to actively engage students in learning, encouraging participation, inquiry, and critical thinking.
5. **Classroom Management Techniques:** Implement strategies to manage classroom behavior, build positive student relationships, and maintain a safe, structured environment.
6. **Use of Educational Technology:** Integrate technology into lessons effectively, using tools like interactive whiteboards, educational apps, and online resources to enhance student learning.
7. **Collaboration with Peers:** Work collaboratively with fellow students and educators to plan, deliver, and reflect on teaching experiences and classroom activities.
8. **Cultural Awareness and Inclusivity:** Demonstrate sensitivity and responsiveness to cultural diversity, using inclusive practices to make all students feel respected and valued.
9. **Reflective Practice:** Engage in self-assessment and reflective practices to continually improve instructional techniques and classroom management approaches.
10. **Professionalism and Ethical Behavior:** Display professionalism in conduct, including punctuality, preparation, ethical decision-making, and maintaining a positive attitude toward teaching.

These knowledge and skills statements will help guide students toward career readiness in education while fostering the development of essential competencies for aspiring teachers.

**Course:** Teacher Academy 8B: Education Career Application

**ESchool/Infinite Campus Name:** TA 8A: Education Career Application

**Knowledge and Skills Statement:**

By the end of this course, students will:

1. **Classroom Observation and Reflection**: Demonstrate the ability to observe classroom instruction and student behaviors effectively, and reflect on what worked well and what could be improved in teaching practices.
2. **Lesson Implementation**: Practice developing and delivering lesson activities under the supervision of experienced teachers, focusing on clear objectives, student engagement, and measurable outcomes.
3. **Differentiating Instruction**: Apply strategies to modify lessons for students with different learning needs, using tools such as tiered assignments, flexible grouping, and scaffolded learning tasks.
4. **Classroom Management Practice**: Begin implementing basic classroom management strategies, such as maintaining student attention, creating clear expectations, and responding to disruptions appropriately during early career teaching experiences.
5. **Student Assessment and Feedback**: Participate in the development and administration of formative assessments, and provide constructive feedback to students to support their learning progress.
6. **Collaborative Teaching Experiences**: Work in collaboration with mentor teachers and peers during early career experiences to co-plan, co-teach, and co-evaluate lessons, gaining insight into the importance of teamwork in education.
7. **Communication with Students and Teachers**: Develop effective communication skills for interacting with students, fellow teachers, and school staff, including clear articulation of expectations, active listening, and professional collaboration.
8. **Student-Centered Learning Approaches**: Know the importance of creating student-centered learning environments that encourage autonomy, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills.
9. **Time Management and Organization**: Develop time management skills for organizing lesson materials, preparing for classes, and meeting deadlines for assessments and administrative tasks during early career experiences.

10. **Professional Self-Reflection**: Engage in reflective practices by keeping journals or logs of teaching experiences, analyzing personal growth, and identifying areas for improvement and future professional development.

11. **Understanding Diverse Educational Settings**: Know the characteristics and challenges of working in different educational environments, such as urban, suburban, and rural schools, and how these contexts affect teaching and learning.

12. **Fieldwork Ethics and Expectations**: Be aware of the ethical standards and expectations associated with early career experiences and fieldwork in schools, including maintaining a supportive and non-intrusive role during classroom observations and practice teaching.

These knowledge and skills statements prepare middle school students for real-world application of education career skills through hands-on early career experiences, ensuring they have a solid foundation for future teaching roles.