

GSTEP FAQ: How do I find a course for the Teaching Practicum?

One concern GSTEP students express every semester is determining how to secure a practicum. The practicum require the initiative to identify and ensure the right teaching opportunity to demonstrate the skills you are developing. The following suggested steps can help those of you do not already have a specific undergraduate course for the teaching practicum.

1. Do your homework.

Use my.unt.edu to search for the undergraduate classes being taught in your discipline(s). Determine how you might add value to that course. Some examples include:

- Offering a 30-minute extra study session regarding a critical component
- Offering a 30-minute exam prep study session

2. Schedule an appointment to meet with the instructor of record.

Reach out the instructor, introduce yourself, and offer to meet (face-to-face, online, phone, etc.) them during their conference time or in-between classes. The instructor may not be familiar with GSTEP, so here is an excerpt from an email that a GSTEP mentor sent to a professor about GSTEP:

“In GSTEP, we aim to transform how our students approach teaching and help them examine their assumptions about education and teaching. We support the transformative learning theories developed by sociologist Jack Mezirow which aims to effect a transformation in students’ habitual ways of thinking, feeling, and acting.

While preparing for his practicum opportunity, students complete several activities and assignments designed to prepare them to teach a college class. In addition to writing student learning goals, creating formative and summative student learning assessments, and developing inclusive teaching strategies, they will be preparing to engage students by implementing evidence-based active learning and engagement techniques.”

You can also direct them to the [GSTEP webpage](#) if they want further details about the program.

STEP 3: Persuade.

When you meet with the instructor, explain that:

- You are a GSTEP student this semester and share what you have learned about GSTEP so far.
- GSTEP requires you to practice your new teaching skills in an undergraduate class



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- You are requesting a minimum of 30 minutes within the class to practice your new skills, and you would work with the instructor in designing the learning outcomes, assessments, and learning strategies to ensure your practicum adds value to their course.

Finally, you are welcome to direct them to the GSTEP Instructor-of-Record for any further questions or concerns.