

UTeach Internship Program 2015-2016

We Prepare Teachers. They Change the World.



THE UNIVERSITY OF TEXAS AT AUSTIN

Executive Summary

The UTeach teacher preparation program was developed at The University of Texas at Austin to help address the dramatic shortage of qualified math and science teachers in Texas and beyond.

UTeach integrates a rigorous math and/or science major, research experience, acquisition of effective teaching techniques, field experience, and teaching certification in a 4-year program. It has produced systemic change that has led to dramatic results in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) teacher preparation.

One of the most important elements of the UTeach Program is the student internship program. The UTeach Internship program partners with STEM focused organizations and local schools to help fill the growing demand for high-quality STEM pre-service teachers, mentors, and tutors. UTeach interns gain valuable field experience while bringing innovative and effective STEM teaching methods to K-12 students; especially in underserved areas of the community. UTeach interns earn a stipend for working in educational settings such as museums, libraries, STEM camps, and local schools.

UTeach Internships Impact

UTeach Internships serve multiple populations including the following:

UTeach Students: Internships help UTeach students, become future STEM teachers by providing both financial assistance and practical STEM education-related experiences.

The Local community: UTeach Internships support the community by working with STEM educational initiatives that are part of local schools and nonprofit organizations.

K-12 students: UTeach interns often work with at-risk students. Our interns have the opportunity to influence young students' attitudes towards mathematics and science while acting as a role model, mentor, and friend.

Who are UTeach Interns?

The quality of UTeach Interns is very high. They have high SAT scores and GPAs and much better retention compared with other students in the College of Natural Sciences.

These strong students are choosing a teaching career path as their first choice; they are dedicated, excited, and they emerge at graduation with excellent content knowledge and considerable experience in the classroom. A number of our students have assumed leadership positions in their schools such as department chairman, director of curriculum, or AP teacher, even as early as their second or third year of teaching.

UTeach has exploded the myth that high performing science and math majors at a top research university are not interested in teaching. They are interested, and they become the strongest, most successful teachers.

Program Description

The primary goals of the internship program are to contribute to the recruitment and retention of UTeach students, provide them with financial support, and prepare them to become exceptional teachers. However, another goal is always to provide excellent, inspiring, and fun instruction in math and science to children who need it.

Each semester, UTeach students are able to select an internship, from our list of partners based on their own interests and needs. UTeach works closely with personnel at each partner site to ensure a quality experience for the site, the students they serve, and the UTeach interns. UTeach interns may work up to 20 hours a week.

The funding provided by UTeach Internships relieves UTeach students from having to work in jobs that do not contribute to their academic program. In addition, the interns contribute significantly to the partner site in which they are employed. This program has helped UTeach form partnerships with more than 30 non-profit organizations around the greater Austin area that provide educational services to the Austin community. Most of these serve disadvantaged students and minority students. The internship program has proven enormously successful for UTeach students, our non-profit partners, and local K-12 students.

UTeach Internships—By The Numbers

2,800 K-12 Students served each year

164 Internships Awarded in 2015-2016

30 Nonprofit STEM-focused organizations and schools served each year

98% UTeach Interns who feel internships help them prepare to be good teachers

Internship Funding 2015-2016

The 2015-2016 Internships were funded by the following generous supporters

Lyle and Margaret Baker Endowment for Excellence in Teacher Training

Pilar and Jaime Davila UTeach Internship Fund

Mrs. George Routh Felter Endowed Scholarship for Excellence in Teacher Training

Houston Livestock Show and Rodeo

LMI Aerospace, Inc. and Ronald S. Saks Charitable Foundation

Sara Martinez Tucker Endowment for Excellence in Teacher Training

James R. and Lauree Z. Moffett Endowment for Excellence in Teacher Training

Marjorie Morales Endowment for Excellence in Teacher Training

National Instruments Endowment for Excellence in Teacher Training

Pamela and Michael Reese

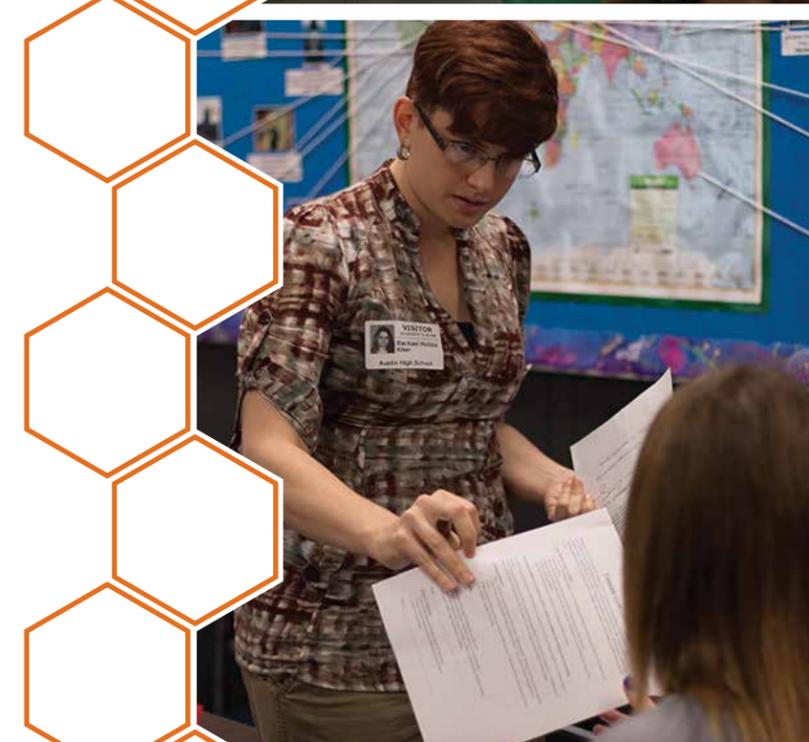
RGK Foundation and KLE Foundation Excellence Endowment for UTeach

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2015-2016:

In 2015-2016, the UTeach Internship Program was able to support 164 student interns. UTeach interns worked with numerous organizations throughout the Austin area helping to develop educational materials, working with families and children, providing guided tours at local museums, or assisting with after-school programs devoted to helping children succeed (see Table). Internships have proven mutually beneficial to UTeach students and to the Austin community organizations they serve.

UTEACH INTERNSHIPS, 2015-2016

Austin HS Global Studies Academy	11
Bedichek Middle School	2
Breakthrough	10
Chembridge	2
Crockett High School	6
Environmental Science Institute	2
Girlstart	15
Math Happens	4
Reagan High School	6
River City Youth Foundation	19
Rose Research Group	3
UTeach Peer Mentors	18
The Thinkery –Austin Children’s Museum	4
The Young Scientists Program	12
Travis High School	4
UT on-line high school	6
UTeach Math	6
UTeach Outreach (serving AISD middle schools)	27
UTeach Outreach Summer Programs	5
Westcave Preserve	2
Total number of internships	164



UTeach Internship Survey Results

To measure the success of the program, an Internship Survey is sent out to interns each semester. Below are some of the student responses.

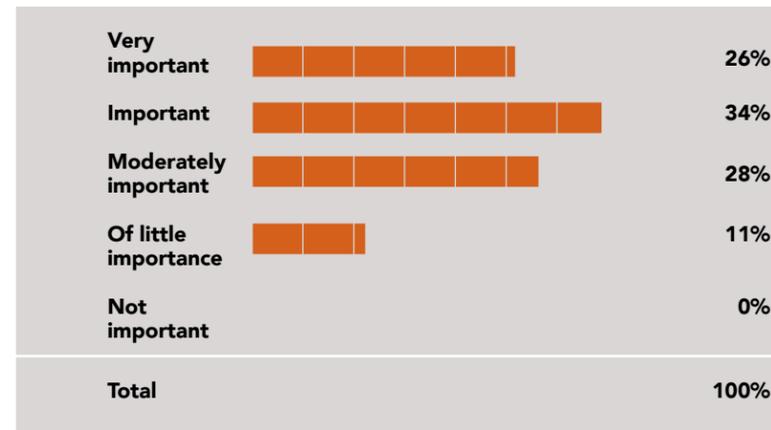
UTeach Internship Survey Results

Question: Briefly describe the work you have been doing this semester.

- I have helped out with events meant to bring technology and science that both parents and students might not be exposed to otherwise. Such as internet use and science experiments.
- I lead two weekly after-school clubs for 4th and 5th grade girls who are interested in STEM. Every week is an activity that highlights a different STEM career field, such as Biofuel Engineer or Landfill Engineer. The activities are hands-on for the students, like designing, building and testing model wind turbines out of craft materials (wooden skewers, paper clips, corks, etc).
- I am a tutor at UTHS and I tutor algebra, geometry, calculus, chemistry, biology, and physics. I also look at curriculum present in the course and make changes based on student feedback.
- I lead an after school club for girls interested in STEM. I manage the classroom and guide the students through engineering experiments.
- Most of the work involves support for their afternoon youth programming; all of the lessons use technology of some kind (the students work with tablets and chrome books quite a bit). I have not been working here long, but we have done quite a few activities that teach basics of computer science.
- I coordinate the H2fromH2O program’s electrolysis kit usage. These are kits that demonstrate water splitting that we lend to teachers for use in classrooms. We also present at community events with the kits.
- As a team we constantly develop activities for the students that are related to STEM. River City is big on technology so we use technology every day with the kids. We also help them with their math and science homework.
- I am helping UTeach students create, set up, and practice their lessons. I help STEM students think of science and math activities to do in the classroom. We also practice those STEM activities before they are implemented in the classroom.
- This semester I have been preparing curriculum for UT PREP summer camp. I will be working with students in the camps over the summer.
- I provide tours on the history of Westcave and I also manage administrative duties. In my tours I must incorporate my knowledge of geology, zoology, botany and ecosystems.

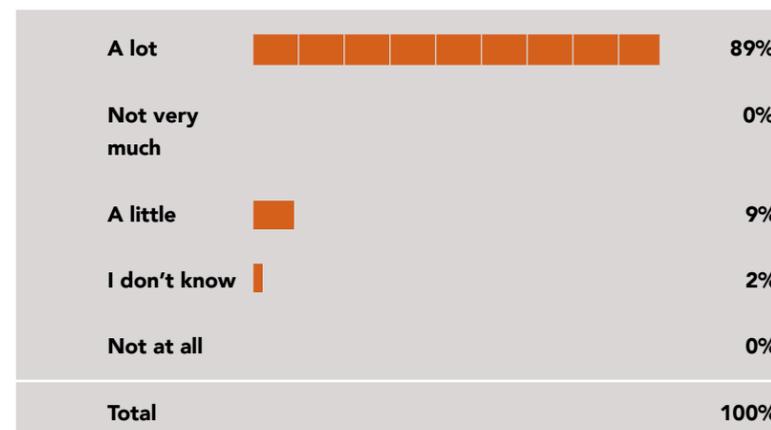
UTeach Internship

Question: How important is the financial support you get from your work as an intern?



- If it was not for the financial support I would have to work another job and not be able to be an intern
- It is important for any organization to provide assistance in the form of internships for members of the organization to get experience in the field. As a college student, the financial assistance is an added bonus.
- It’s valuable because you’re able to make money and gain experience in your field. As a freshman, I don’t hold many qualifications, so internships like these can help build up my resume.
- I am a poor college student, and while my main motivation for choosing an internship is my personal interest in the impact my work will have, I need to pay bills. Otherwise, the only opportunities that align with my passions would be on a strictly volunteer basis, which I can’t afford to spend my time on.
- It’s awesome to have a job that is flexible with my time, because my routine is hardly set in stone. Providing students with a stress free way to help offset the cost of education is very important.

Question: How much has this internship benefited you as a future teacher?



- My internship gives me the opportunity to work directly with students who are struggling in math and science courses. I get to see the topics and concepts that students are having trouble understanding. This allows me to possibly alter my explanations of these concepts in the classroom.
- This internship gives me weekly practice teaching, as well as practice teaching in real classrooms around Austin. I interact with different teachers and students, and get to visit multiple schools. This internship also has let me practice being a leader, working with small groups and as a whole.
- I have the opportunity to network with other teachers and community leaders - something I am sure I will appreciate when it comes time for me to job search.
- Every day at work I discuss some aspect of teaching and I work in an environment that supports student learning and a desire to better how we teach.
- Getting experience watching another teacher teach and being able to help in class and tutor is really beneficial.
- It showed me how to work with students of grades 6-12. It also helped me talk to parents and show them that I’m there for their kids. It also gave me connections within the teacher network.



UTeach Intern Testimonials

In addition to the survey results, the importance of the internship program is reflected in the testimonials and words of thanks from the UTeach interns and site directors and coordinators. Samples are provided below.

My name is Katherine Coleman and I am a new graduate of the UTeach program. I'd like to thank you very much for your generous donation. This was my second semester as a Chembridge intern and I held this position while student teaching. This internship helped me develop lessons and played a part in my love of curriculum design. I will be taking a teaching job in Houston this fall and I count this internship as one of my favorite undergraduate experiences. It has equipped me for years to come.

Katherine Coleman
(UTeach Intern – Chembridge)

This internship has changed my college career. I am able to help students in their introductory courses to teaching and show them that teaching is fun. I am influencing future teachers and because of your donation, I no longer have to work late hours and my grades in Physics have improved. Thank you so much.

Aminadab Morales
(UTeach Intern – Step Peer Mentor)

The interns are a great benefit to the Outreach program. They contribute expertise in computer science to help improve and create new hands-on Arduino lessons for 6th-7th graders. They also provide excellent support for the UTeach Outreach Course in which the interns are able to assist in preparing materials, giving feedback on 2-6th grade hands-on STEM activities, and presenting lessons.

Laurie Jack
UTeach Outreach – Program Coordinator

As role models for our predominantly Latino population of children who face a variety of language and poverty barriers growing up in a low income community, our interns have demonstrated that dreams can be fulfilled with hard work and perseverance. Not only do our children look up to them but our parents have also taken notice of the positive attitudes that they have toward education as a key to success. Their understanding of the Latino culture, including the importance of family values, has helped them bond with many of the families who are sometimes reluctant to relate to university students. We're grateful for UTeach and the many interns who care for our children each semester as if they were part of their own family.

Mona Gonzalez
River City Youth Foundation – Director

Experiences are something that money cannot buy. Even though this internship provided me with funding, I would like to measure this internship in what it has taught me about myself and others. I come from limited resources and I know what it means to have your dream shattered because you don't have the money or because others say you can't. This semester I worked at River City Youth Foundation helping kids like myself. This internship has increased my desire to be an example that you can achieve all. Thank you for helping me to achieve my dreams.

Eveling Crisostomo
(UTeach Intern – RCYF)

Conclusions:

It is clear from the survey results and testimonials that the UTeach internship program is an invaluable service to both the UTeach students and the Austin community. UTeach is always seeking new sources of support for this vital program and is committed to continued efforts to ensure its prosperity.

We hope you will partner with us as we support UTeach students in serving others.

Thank you,



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To learn more about UTeach Internships go to: <https://uteach.utexas.edu/>



