

Fall 2025 Teacher Education Advisory Council (TEAC) Meeting Summary

Date: October 23, 2025

Time: 11:30 a.m.–1:15 p.m.

Location: UAH Roberts Hall, Room 325

Purpose

The Fall 2025 Teacher Education Advisory Council (TEAC) meeting focused on strengthening collaboration between the EPP and its P–12 partners by reviewing graduate program initiatives, discussing strategies to address regional teacher shortages, enhancing clinical partnerships, and identifying ways the EPP could better meet the needs of partner school districts. The meeting also continued the EPP's continuous improvement process by sharing completer and employer survey findings that informed program planning.

Major Accomplishments

1. Reviewed Graduate Program Delivery and Candidate Experience

The EPP presented updates regarding the **M.Ed. and Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT)** programs, including program modality and the graduate student experience. Partners discussed how graduate program structures could better support working educators while maintaining program quality and responsiveness to district needs.

2. Expanded Collaboration on Advanced Field Experiences

TEAC members reviewed the EPP's advanced field experience model and discussed opportunities to strengthen clinical partnerships for graduate candidates.

The discussion focused on ensuring field experiences remain relevant, responsive to district priorities, and aligned with the professional responsibilities of practicing educators pursuing advanced licensure.

3. Collaborated on Recruitment Strategies to Address Teacher Shortages

A primary focus of the meeting was identifying collaborative strategies to recruit and retain educators within the region.

Faculty and district partners discussed:

- recruitment initiatives for graduate educator preparation programs;
- approaches to reducing teacher shortages;
- expanding partnerships with local districts;
- strengthening pathways into educator preparation.

Rather than simply presenting university initiatives, the meeting intentionally invited district leaders to co-construct recruitment strategies based on current workforce needs.

4. Discussed Educator Preparation Admission Interview Partnership

The EPP introduced an Educator Preparation Admission Interview Partnership designed to increase district involvement in candidate selection and admissions.

This initiative further expanded P–12 participation beyond advisory roles by involving school partners more directly in identifying candidates who demonstrate the dispositions and professional qualities needed for success in today's classrooms.

5. Identified Partner Needs and Strengthened University–School Collaboration

The concluding discussion centered on the question:

"What can we do for you?"

This open dialogue invited district leaders to identify current challenges, workforce needs, and opportunities for expanded collaboration.

By structuring the meeting around partner needs rather than university priorities alone, the EPP reinforced its commitment to reciprocal partnerships and continuous improvement driven by stakeholder feedback.

6. Reviewed Completer and Employer Survey Findings

The meeting incorporated findings from the 2024–2025 completer and employer surveys to guide program improvement discussions.

Employer survey strengths included:

- oral communication skills;
- written communication skills;
- collaborative professional relationships; and
- employers' willingness to recommend future graduates.

Employers also identified opportunities for improvement, including:

- strengthening science of reading preparation;
- enhancing classroom management;
- increasing experiences with diverse learners;
- expanding field experiences.

Completer survey strengths highlighted graduates' preparation for:

- building positive relationships with students;
- creating engaging learning environments;
- classroom management;
- student safety;
- equitable instruction;
- lesson planning.

Completers also recommended additional emphasis on:

- preparation for IEPs, RTI, and Section 504 processes;
- curriculum design;
- classroom management for challenging behaviors;
- work-life balance and teacher wellness;
- earlier integration of edTPA throughout the program;
- increased opportunities to learn from program alumni;
- stronger connections with families and guardians.

These survey findings provided TEAC members with current evidence regarding graduate preparedness and informed discussions regarding future program improvements.

7. Sustained Broad P–12 Engagement

The meeting included administrators and instructional leaders representing numerous regional school systems, including Limestone County Schools, Huntsville City Schools, Decatur City Schools, Whitesburg Middle School, Grissom High School, Jones Valley Elementary, Heritage

Elementary, Tanner High School, Sparkman Fourth Grade School, and UAH faculty and administrators.

The diversity of representation ensured that program discussions reflected the needs of multiple school systems and educational settings across the EPP's service region.

Outcomes of the Meeting

The Fall 2025 TEAC meeting produced several important outcomes supporting continuous improvement:

- Shared updates regarding graduate educator preparation programs and advanced clinical experiences.
- Collaboratively explored regional recruitment strategies to address teacher shortages.
- Expanded district participation in educator preparation admissions through a proposed interview partnership.
- Reviewed completer and employer survey data to identify program strengths and opportunities for improvement.
- Collected partner recommendations regarding district workforce needs and future university support.
- Strengthened reciprocal partnerships between the EPP and regional school districts through collaborative planning and shared decision-making.