

Paid Internships for Student Teachers

Student teaching costs aspiring educators money, time, and a realistic opportunity for the classroom experience expected by their supervisors and program.

Too many teacher candidates are delaying an internship or even dropping out of their programs due to the hidden costs of graduating. Often these are the educators our students need most in the classroom—educators currently underrepresented who can connect to and model success for students from communities historically denied access and opportunities to the college- and career-ready education needed for economic and social mobility and civic engagement.

Internships are great experience, but a lot of work

“When I don’t have classes, I’ve been subbing to make extra money. One day when I was subbing, I had an intern in the classroom. She worked hard all day and the school even assigned her recess duty. She had one 30-minute break all day and didn’t make a dollar.”

—Alyssa Leventhal *Senior, University of Maryland*



“I was teaching 4th grade and in my last semester. When the substitute left due to illness, I was left alone with the 23 students—essentially a substitute teacher. The difference between an intern and a substitute is that I’m an

unlicensed teacher candidate and as such cannot be alone in a room of students as I would not be covered if something happened in the classroom. A substitute is certified personnel and covered if something happened.”

—Lindsey Moxley *Senior, Salisbury State University*

Hidden fees of student teaching

“At University of Maryland, we have mandatory advising each semester. We are required to sign an agreement that states: ‘There are additional fees/expenses associated with the completion of our teacher preparation program, for example, the purchase of a LiveText account, the student teaching internship fee, EdTPA, PRAXIS II assessment, and expenses associated with transportation to and from the internship site.’”

—Anonymous *University of Maryland*

Transportation: Interns have no input into their placement



“I really loved my placement in fall 2022, but it was a struggle to get there. I had to take the Metro and bus each way—a roundtrip of three hours for a half-day placement. I spent more time commuting than

teaching. Back at campus, I had to attend classes, do homework and lesson plans, and then report to my paying job off-campus.

This semester my commute is four hours roundtrip. Many days, I must leave student teaching early to make it back to campus for classes. Sometimes there just isn’t time to use public transportation, so I have to pay for an Uber or Lyft. It all contributes to the fact that I don’t have the time to really focus on learning how to teach.”

—Marcella Finelli *Senior, University of Maryland*

A professional job requires a professional wardrobe



“This is the first time I’ve been required to wear professional clothing. My program at Frostburg State, evaluates us on our professional wardrobe. I had to spend \$250 for one week’s attire

for my internship: five shirts, three jackets/blazers, and three pairs of pants and I still don’t have a pair of professional/comfortable shoes. I don’t know of any other job, career, profession, or major that requires this type of expense. Jobs usually pay people for training. My student teaching experience has been one hidden fee after another, all while paying full tuition. I just want to learn how to teach.”

—Ciera Davisson *Senior, Frostburg State University*

ISSUE FOCUS

THE COST OF STUDENT TEACHING

This is a cost breakdown of one student's experience trying to complete their internship. To make ends meet, this self-supporting student worked up to 40 hours a week.



Meaghan Doyle
Former Student,
Towson State University

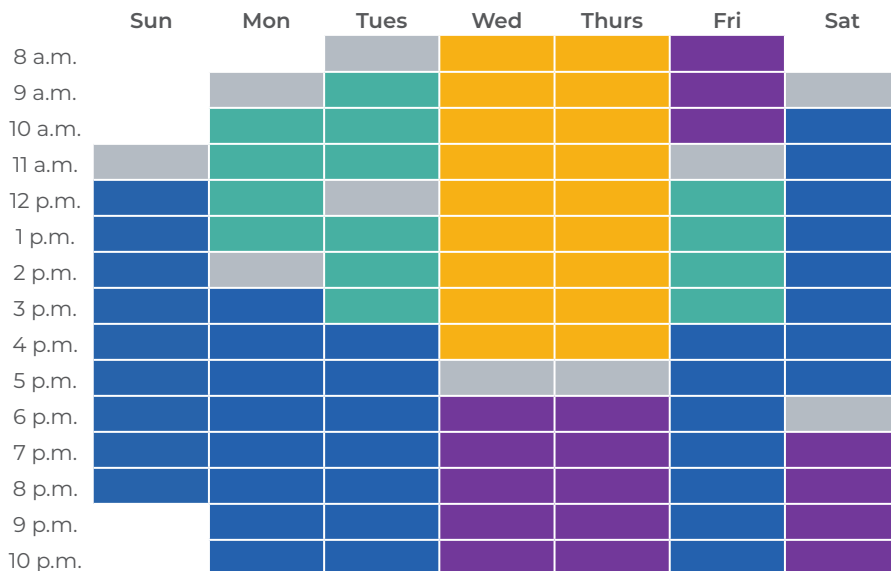
Expense	Cost
EdTPA <i>Performance-based, subject-specific assessment</i>	\$300
Elementary Praxis/Four Content Areas <i>Subject-specific content knowledge assessment</i>	\$300
Lesson Plan Software	\$140
Lesson Plan Materials	<i>What's possible in my personal budget</i>
Transportation to and from Internship <i>Personal vehicle</i>	\$700
Car Payment <i>Maintenance and related expenses</i>	\$875
Lab Fees <i>Including mentor teacher fee</i>	\$200
Tuition	\$5,754
Housing <i>Rent Only</i>	\$4,200
Utilities <i>Water, electric, wifi, etc.</i>	\$647.50
Monthly Food Expenses <i>Groceries or meal plan cost</i>	\$700
Internship Wardrobe/Attire	\$250
Total Semester Expense	\$14,066.50

TUITION BILL

Fall Semester/Student Teaching 2022 for a working, self-supporting student

ECED Lab/Class Fee	\$25	PDS Internship/Practicum Fee	\$200
UG Student Gov't Assoc. Fee	\$51	UG Athletics Fee	\$544
UG Technology Fee	\$116	UG Aux Services Fees	\$1,079
UG Tuition <i>In-state</i>	\$3,619	Overload Surcharge Fee	\$120
Total Charges			\$5,754

STUDENT TEACHER SCHEDULE



KEY

Working Hours (*HomeGoods*)

32-40 hrs. @ \$14.50/hr.
Net income: \$1,100-1,250/month

Class Hours

4 hrs./week

Internship Hours

Part-time interns: 18 unpaid hrs./week; Full-time interns: 640 unpaid hours over 16 weeks

Time to Study/Intern Prep

17 hours: If I did not pick up extra shifts to make ends meet

Travel/Personal Vehicle

1-1.5 hours roundtrip, depending on traffic/location

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