

# Step 1: Inquiry Approaches to Teaching

## Introduction

### Course Description

Step 1 allows students to explore teaching as a career at no cost. Using excellent inquiry-based science and mathematics strategies, students teach lessons in elementary classrooms to obtain firsthand experience in planning and implementation.

Master teachers, former experienced and successful secondary teachers, provide students direct exposure to people who love teaching and view it as a rewarding career choice. Mentor teachers at the schools where students practice demonstrate effective teaching techniques and classroom management skills, giving the future teachers a true taste of working in a supportive, diverse educational setting.

### Core Components

- ❖ Course is taught by master teachers: experienced, successful classroom teachers who have joined the university faculty.
- ❖ Students receive field experience in local elementary schools with diverse student populations.
- ❖ Students observe exemplary teachers.
- ❖ Students teach three lessons in grades 3 through 6.
- ❖ Students select, adapt, and implement inquiry-based lessons based on a nationally recognized curriculum and using the 5E Instructional Model.
- ❖ Students receive mentoring from high quality classroom teachers.
- ❖ Curriculum emphasizes student reflection on classroom observations and experiences.
- ❖ Curriculum emphasizes collaboration and peer coaching during lesson design, classroom discussions, and lesson demonstrations.

### Essential Questions

- ❖ What are the challenges and rewards related to teaching?
- ❖ What is inquiry-based instruction?
- ❖ What are the instructional and learning components of an inquiry-based science or mathematics lesson?
- ❖ What are the qualities of effective lesson objectives?
- ❖ What questioning techniques lead to understanding what students know?
- ❖ What safety concerns are related to inquiry-based lessons?
- ❖ What technology skills are necessary for professional productivity?
- ❖ What strategies can be used to promote instructional equity in the classroom?