

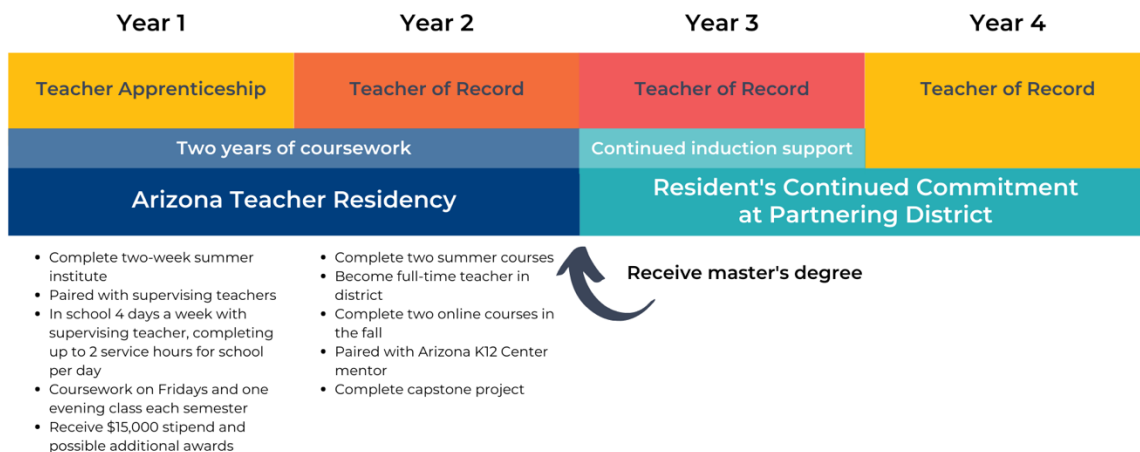


Arizona Teacher Residency Frequently Asked Questions

What makes this program different from other teacher preparation programs in Arizona?

The Arizona Teacher Residency (AZTR) is different from most other programs in Arizona because it:

- requires a yearlong intensive apprenticeship in partnering schools where residents slowly ramp up their instructional responsibilities under the guidance of a strong supervising teacher prior to becoming a teacher of record
- is a two-year graduate program leading to a master's degree through NAU, with coursework that revolves around residents' classroom experience
- offers direct support to residents and supervising teachers in the form of sizable stipends and extensive professional development opportunities
- supports residents through two years of induction after they become teachers of record and then sets them up to be able to pursue National Board Certification, which we hope most will choose to do
- requires a three-year commitment to teaching in partnering districts after the residency year



Who are the district partners?

We are finalizing those partnerships and should be able to announce our partnering schools and districts by the end of November. Because our first cohort will be small, we anticipate a few initial partner districts, but as we expand, that list will continue to grow.

How can districts, educators, community organizations, funders get involved?

Please do not hesitate to reach out to us at aztr@azk12.org.



How will the Supervising Teachers in partner districts be selected? Will they be compensated?

We are going to be implementing a community nomination process, where folks in the communities of our partner districts (e.g. students, parents, teachers, principals, superintendents, community organizations) can nominate a teacher they admire to be considered to be a Supervising Teacher. From these nominations, we will invite teachers to apply. We will read applications, narrow down the list, and then select teachers to interview and observe. Then we will select the final Supervising Teachers and invite them to join us. They will receive a \$2,000 stipend during the residency and also full support to complete the Arizona K12 Center's mentor training.

For Potential Applicants**How long is the program?**

The Arizona Teacher Residency is a two-year graduate program, plus an extra year of induction support. We will be enrolling our first cohort in the summer of 2022, and they will graduate with their master's degree from NAU in the late spring of 2024.

Can residents do this program from anywhere in Arizona?

No. Residents must work in a partnering district throughout the residency year and beyond. Initially, we will partner with a few different Title-1 districts in the Phoenix area. However, we plan to expand to rural areas in coming years.

Can residents teach anything? Or is this program only for certain grade levels or subject areas?

In our first year, we will only offer a master's degree plus certification in elementary education, which spans from kindergarten through eighth grade. The coursework will be generalist in nature, as opposed to focused on a particular content area like math, science, or art. However, in coming years we are planning to expand to secondary certification to serve high schools and will determine concentrations based on the needs present in partnering schools/districts.

Is the coursework all online?

No. Most of our coursework in the first year will be taught in-person by faculty affiliated with the Arizona Teacher Residency. These courses will take place all-day on Friday and once a week after school. In the second year, when residents become teachers of record, most of the coursework will be online. There is also required coursework in the summers before and after the residency year that will be taught in a hybrid format.

Am I eligible to apply?

If you have (or will have by spring of 2022) a bachelor's degree in any concentration, you are eligible to apply.

How do I apply?

We will be releasing our initial application form in November. The first step is going to be filling out this form online and submitting it to us. From these applications, we will be reaching out to



applicants to complete multiple additional steps that include applying to NAU's Master's in Elementary Education plus Certification Program; submitting a personal statement essay, unofficial transcripts, a resumé, and three references; and finally, attending a selection day event virtually or in-person.

When will the program announce admission decisions?

We plan to have our admission decisions finalized by the late spring of 2022.

How many residents will you accept?

We are looking to accept about 30 residents in our first cohort, but will be expanding the cohorts every year, resources permitting. The goal is to support annual cohorts of 100 residents across the state.

How much is the living stipend and when is it given?

Residents will receive a \$15,000 stipend in the first year of the program as they complete their apprenticeship in schools. Additionally, the program can offer health care to residents who need it, as well as other sources of direct support. In the second year, along with finishing their master's degree coursework, they will be hired by the district and will receive a salary for teaching full time in their own classroom.

How much will residents have to pay for this program?

Most applicants will have very little out-of-pocket cost. Arizona residents can apply to the [Arizona Teachers Academy](#) to cover their master's degree tuition at NAU. And a large grant from the Arizona Department of Education will cover other program expenses. Residents will be expected to pay for their Arizona Fingerprint Clearance Card and any required books for courses.

Is there a minimum required teaching commitment?

Yes, it is four years in total. When residents enroll in the program, they must sign an agreement that states they will commit to serving as a teacher for the three years after their residency year in the same district/school in which they are prepared. This amounts to a 4-year minimum commitment to a partnering district.

