

Initial Report

Last Modified: 05/17/2016

1. Please enter whether you are an intern or student teacher:

Text Response
Intern
Intern
Intern
Intern- Aspiring Teacher
Intern
Student Teacher
intern
Student teacher
Intern
Intern (Aspring Teacher)
Intern
Intern
Intern

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	13

2. To what extent do you feel the Teacher Education Program has prepared you for the teaching profession? Please elaborate on your answer.

#	Answer	Response	%
7	Prepared	14	100%
8	Somewhat prepared	0	0%
9	Not prepared	0	0%
	Total	14	100%

Prepared	Somewhat prepared	Not prepared
The full year of student teaching really allowed me to see everything that goes on in a school rather than just a small portion of time.		
Prepared		
Creating a classroom management plan		
I feel like the Belmont Teaching Program provided me with many of the skills I needed to be an effective teacher.		
Learned how to plan, assess, and collaborate		
I feel that my experiences directly in the classroom during this semester as a student teacher has prepared me most for the teaching profession.		
I could not have imagined what it would have been like as a first year teacher without these experiences.		
I feel that I have been prepared through my methods courses and also my experiences in the classroom.		
Without this program I never would have felt prepared for the classroom setting. The program really helps us feel like a real lead teacher with every responsibility of a teacher.		
I feel very prepared to become a full time teacher. I feel as if I have all of the knowledge, resources, and confidence to direct my own		

classroom.

As well as being in the MAT program, I was also an Aspiring Teacher at Buena Vista. Both of these experiences helped me gain experience and confidence in planning, instruction, collaboration and classroom management.

3. Did your practicums and clinical placements provide you with experiences in diverse environments? Please elaborate about your experiences.

Text Response

Yes. I had a chance to visit USN and Murrell, so we definitely had a range of experiences to choose from. We were encouraged to visit schools that had different environments and student populations so we could get a feel for both.

Yes. I got to work with multiple grade levels and students from all different walks of life! It has been incredible.

I feel that my practicum placements provided me with two completely different environments. This experienced truly helped me realize my passion.

Due to the nature of my placement as as Aspiring Teacher I remained at Buena Vista all year so I was unable to observe any other environments. However, I do believe that my time at Buena Vista has prepared me to work an very challenging school setting.

Yes. I had students with IEP's, BIP's, and general Ed.

Yes, certainly in my practicums as they varied greatly from school to school. Less so in my clinical placements but diversity still represented.

Yes - I had one placement in a metro school and one placement in a Williamson County school. Those two places are very diverse and I felt I was able to compare and contrast the two with the differences and similarities.

Yes, first placement- urban, second placement-rural. The difference was unbelievable, and I am so glad that I had two placements to realize this.

Yes, I interned at a school with a very diverse population.

Because I was in the same placement for the entire year, my experiences with diverse populations was limited.

Yes. I was placed in a Metro Nashville placement and a Williamson County placement. In Metro, it was an urban setting with a low income community. Most of the population was African American students. In Williamson County, it was a more rural, suburban setting with a high income community. Most of the population was Caucasian students. However, in both placements I had a good range of diversity with ESL students.

Yes, my placements in Hillsboro High School and West End Middle School both provided me with very diverse environments in many different ways. I worked with inclusion classes as well as honors classes from 7th to 9th grade. I think each class was extremely different and it was fun learning how to manage and teach different students and classrooms. Also being in each placement for a full semester was very helpful. I do not think i would have taken as much knowledge away with me from the program had I only been placed for nine weeks.

I spent the whole year at Buena Vista since I was an Aspiring Teacher so I was in the same environment, with the same students for the whole school year. I enjoyed this experience because it allowed me to experience a full year of teaching, from August to May, and see the growth of each of my students.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

4. To what extent do you feel your courses and clinical experiences have prepared you for teaching a variety of learners? Please elaborate.

Text Response

I feel prepared in my coursework. All the work was practical and related directly to my internship. I gained a lot of resources to use in my placement, and next year during my first full year of teaching.

I feel like Belmont has prepared me really well. They taught me new strategies and provided a mentor ship that is irreplaceable.

I feel extremely prepared and believe the DBDM project was a good examination of my ability to meet the needs of all learners.

Each of the instructors understood the challenging nature of Buena Vista and provided us with instructional strategies and classroom management suggestions for many of our diverse student needs. They also provides various suggestions for teaching in high need, low income environments, with a high homeless population and high mobility rate.

My only worry is ELL students because I did not work directly with them in this placement.

I feel well prepared for teaching a variety of learners. This program has first, helped me to understand that no two learners are exactly the same and second, taught me how to meet the needs of those various learners by differentiating instruction.

I would have liked more information about how to teach diverse learners and given specific strategies to help me in my placement to differentiate my lessons. In each subject area, however, I felt as though I was able to take what I learned and apply it to my lessons while thinking about the different learning styles.

I have experience teaching middle schoolers and high schoolers so I feel prepared to teach both age groups through this experience.

i feel very prepared as we have observed and completed practicum hours in private schools, public schools and specific schools for students social emotional disorders.

I feel my courses have helped me prepare for teaching a variety of learners. My placement has prepared me for working a specific population, but those skills will carry into working with different populations as well.

I have been prepared in a variety of ways. In my placement, I was able to lead a classroom, develop an understanding of RTI and data collection, acquire classroom management skills, and find my voice as a confident leader.

I believe that my classes were very useful. I think the strategies I learned were the most useful within the classroom. From taking the classes i feel very well prepared. It was interesting going to some conferences with fellow student teachers from other schools. They would all ask questions that we already knew the answers to. It made me feel very confident in myself and

the program I was a part of. I think my courses gave me all of the ground work. They taught me the knowledge and strategies, but actually teaching a variety of learners is learned within the classroom.

I think the courses I took at Belmont helped me to understand how to differentiate when I plan and when I instruct. The professors at Belmont were very knowledgeable and helpful in developing student thinking in all of the content areas.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

5. Please list course assignments that you feel were most applicable to your clinical experience and why.

Text Response

Unit plan (Dr. Neel's class) Electronic website/portfolio (Neel & Krauss) Literacy strategy presentation (Krauss) Interview questions (Dr. Ivey-Soto) Data project (McGowan)

I feel like my data project was huge and also my behavior plan... These are so applicable to my future career. I also learned so many strategies in social studies methods like Socratic seminar.

-lesson plans for social studies since I had the chance to truly focus on project based learning - DBDM (see previous question) - literacy resource file

I really enjoyed the self-monitoring tier 2 behavior intervention project in the fall and the data-based decision making project in the spring. Both projects were extremely extensive and required a lot of time however I believe both of them really prepared me for teaching as creating academic and behavior interventions will be extremely valuable!

Creating a classroom management plan because no matter where I teach, I will need to have one of those.

Though I do feel that the Belmont lesson plan template is quite lengthy and arduous, having to create lesson plans has been most applicable to student teaching. Though I don't use the Belmont template for lesson planning, it has helped me to better understand the way in which a lesson should be constructed.

Unit plans (Literacy and Social Studies) - I am teaching ELA and Social Studies next year and those two together helped me create a solid lesson plan that made me think critically about the students and the students' thinking. Social Studies final exam - it helped me think about the students' perspectives and how to plan lessons based on misconceptions and ideas Job and Career Fairs - it helped me find a job and network with good people! Seminar - it was a breath of fresh air. It helped me decompose and it gave me something to look forward to every week because it was helping us take care of ourselves and how to not get burned out in teaching.

The observations and the weekly progress sheets were helpful and I am glad that I had the opportunity to use data in the classroom through the project for the Gateway 4.

creating lesson plans, creating resource files, sharing resources and articles

Classroom Management Plan helped me think through the set-up of my classroom, the challenges that I might face as a teacher and also prepared me for interview questions that might arise about management. Data-Based Decision Making Project gave me experience planning and implementing a data-driven intervention.

The course assignments most applicable to my clinical experience was the Data-Based Decision Making Project in the Spring and the Behavior Management Intervention in the Fall. They both helped me implement interventions for children who needed individual attention, confidence in mathematics/reading skills, and behavioral management strategies.

I think the resume and interview questions were very useful. Obviously they are both things I need to be able to get a job. Truly I forget many of the assignments. I think the data based projects were also useful. They made me more aware of how to take and use data within my classroom.

-Data-based decision making project-This project helped me understand how to identify an area that a student needs intervention in, how to create an intervention that will help the skill or area that needs intervention, and how to track a students progress. -Unit plans-In many of my methods course required me to create unit plans that focused on a specific standard but went into depth and incorporated all content areas. This really helped me to understand how to plan in a way that allowed students to understand how different subjects are related and how we can use knowledge from one content area and apply it in another area.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

6. Please list course assignments that you feel were least applicable to your clinical experience and why.

Text Response

I felt like the assignments all applied to my experience in some way.

Literature resource file- I know this is a good thing to have but it felt like a lot of busy work so I ended up not putting as much effort in as I should have.

- strategy presentations since it seems that most of us are able to find material that meets our needs.

There were several course assignments that I felt might have been deemed as "busy work." Although almost every assignment required us to relate the content back to our current classroom placement or future classroom, I thought some writing assignments might have been unnecessary and the content could have been covered during a class discussion.

Creating a weebly because I plan to work with children in k-2 and they won't really know how to work that sort of program

Though I understand their need, the Gateways have probably benefited me least in my clinical setting.

Observation Assignment (Literacy) - I had gone to watch teachers and took notes and it did not help me to write down any thoughts in a specific format Small Science assignments- I did not get a good debriefing of what the assignment was asking me to do and it became more frustrating than applicable to understand what I needed to do. Science and Math unit plans - I got extremely frustrated when I got feedback on my lesson plans and they were all negative. It was a good sign when the page was blank on my lesson plan because that meant there wasn't any negative feedback. Keep it positive and it would have helped me be more excited about doing the lesson plans.

The summaries that we had to write about guest speakers in our classrooms was not necessary. I had already taken notes from their time with us so I don't feel we should have had to do this, and it added on an additional assignment at the end of the semester.

Reflections on weekly readings

In the science methods course we had to do a web quest that was not applicable at all. The task that was designed was not appropriate for my students and was completely useless. Of all my assignments it is something I will never, ever use again.

Lesson plan assignments - I have talked to both placement schools this year and they both feel like the Belmont formatted lesson plan does not align to the Team Rubric enough. Not applicable for real teaching placements.

Any time we had to create a compendium of resources. Yes it is useful, but resources gathered when forced to for a project are never kept up. At least not in my case. I think any time I had to make a website of compendium it was a waste of time and energy.

-Chapter reviews: I did not feel that the chapter reviews were particularly applicable because I rarely even had time to read with student teaching during the day and going to class at night. It did not seem possible to read for all of my methods courses plus plan for my student teaching. I am sure the textbooks will be good resources for me as I begin my first year of teaching but I honestly was not able to really indulge in the information they contained because of time constraints.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

7. At this point, have you been offered a teaching position? If so, where (district, school, grade level)?

Text Response

No

Yes. Granbery, metro, 2nd grade

Yes. Dallas, Tx, charter - uplift heights preparatory, 3rd grade general

I have been offered a position at Kindergarten or 3rd grade teaching position at Taylor Stratton Elementary and another position at Inglewood Elementary school for the same grade levels. I plan to accept the Kindergarten position at Inglewood.

No. Interviews at summer county schools though

No, but I have applied and interviewed.

Yes!!! Williamson County, Spring Station Middle School, 7th grade ELA/Social Studies

I have been offered a position at Hunter's Lane High School in Davidson County but have decided not to take it to see what is better out there.

Yes, Davidson County/MNPS

MNPS, Inglewood Elementary, 3rd grade. MNPS, Buena Vista Enhanced Option Elementary, 3rd grade.

No, I have had a job interview at Mill Creek Elementary in Williamson County and waiting for a response.

No I have not been offered a job, but I have also not applied for one.

Yes, I have been offered a 3rd grade position at Robert E. Lillard Design Center in MNPS.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

8. Are there any areas in which you feel unprepared as a teacher? Please elaborate.

Text Response

Classroom management, but that's just because I ended up having two placements where classroom management wasn't a huge issue. I feel prepared in my coursework for that area, and I feel mostly prepared to handle that in my classroom, but it's definitely an area of weakness still.

I obviously will continue to work on classroom management.

How to navigate extra curricular activities (i.e. Being a coach, PD leader, etc) and how to go about getting those positions.

I do wish instructors would have spent more time presenting early childhood teaching strategies. I feel prepared to teach elementary content but am not as comfortable with the preschool and kindergarten and applications which is extremely nerve racking as I prepare to accept a kindergarten teaching position.

No.

I feel that I have some weaknesses in creating assessment and I am a bit concerned with being thorough and consistent with behavior management.

I feel unprepared in the areas of conflict resolution between other teachers. -parent communication through phone and email and how to go through the process of parent-teacher conferences -how to set up my room for a middle school classroom -Resources to find information about science, math and social studies

Differentiation is a struggle for me, and I do not think anything I did really helped me to become better at doing it in the classroom.

I feel unprepared in the nature of lessons planning according to the pacing guide

All of them!! But this is due to my own anxiety and not necessarily a reflection on the program.

I feel prepared in all areas but I know there will still be some challenges. For example, not having a mentor teacher or co-teacher in the classroom but me, alone, as the lead teacher. Also, getting used to the commitment goals, responsibility, and communicating with parents.

Any areas that I am currently unsure of will level out when I begin to run my own classroom. There is only so much you can learn while in someone else's classroom in terms of planning and management. I had a taste of both. I big hulking taste, and sometimes it didn't taste good. However, when I am in my own classroom I believe these fears or uncertainties will solve themselves.

No, there are no areas that I feel unprepared as a teacher.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

9. Did you receive the help and resources you needed to succeed from the education department?

#	Answer	Response	%
1	No, not at all	0	0%
2	Somewhat	2	14%
3	Yes, absolutely	12	86%
	Total	14	100%

Statistic	Value
Min Value	2
Max Value	3
Mean	2.86
Variance	0.13
Standard Deviation	0.36
Total Responses	14

10. If you are a graduate student, how was your admissions processing and licensing experience? Please list areas of improvement.

Text Response

It was fine.

It was great. Easy and organized.

I wish I had known from the beginning how to add on courses because I would have liked to be a K-12

The graduate admission was very simply, especially after attending Belmont for my undergrad. I do however have one major suggestion in terms of licensure. I was advised during my undergraduate career to take an american history course to fulfill part of the bell core curriculum however, after graduating I found out I needed to take an additional history course for my teaching license. I wish that information would have been shared during my undergrad. Now I will be graduating next Saturday and have to take a history course through the University of Phoenix before I can get apply for my license.

so far it's gone smoothly

N/A

That process was great for me and everything was handled step by step. I would have liked more transparency between the education office and myself when it came to being highly qualified and the praxis tests I needed to find a job. I felt a lot of the time I was alone in figuring out that. I would have also liked help with the applications I had to fill out within a class. I had to go to one of my professors to get help with that and relay that information to my other classmates.

I am not a graduate student.

It was wonderful and everyone was very helpful!

Admissions was easy and quick. So far the licensing experience has also been positive.

Being admitted to the program took a lot of preparation. An area I could improve on was being more prepared for my Praxis exams.

The admissions process was EXTREMELY CONFUSING! As an undergraduate it was never stated that I would have to re-apply. It was always stated that I was in the 4+1 program and that was that. However, during my senior year it was made known that I had to apply! I had to take tests, and get my transcripts. Truly i had no idea what i was doing for most of the admissions process, and there were at least two times I was left in tears because I thought I had messed up the process. I think I forcibly forgot most of that process because of how stressful it was. If not for my classmates I'm sure I would have missed something.

My licensing experience, my year at Buena Vista, has been extremely challenging but equally

rewarding. After completing a year at one of the toughest elementary schools in the district, I feel confident in my abilities to run my own classroom next year.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14

11. Please elaborate on ways the education department can improve.

Text Response

It's difficult to do the 4+1 program and not have the time to work. Maybe a stipend or something could help here.

I would begin offering EL certification!

Communication seems to be lacking.

As mentioned earlier the department needs to work on supporting their early childhood candidates better by providing more age appropriate teaching strategies and suggestions in methods courses.

Trying to balance coursework/ required nights at school with intern experience.

I found the courses that met in the schools for practicums to be most helpful. They allow those who are looking to teach the valuable experience of getting into the schools and getting a feel for classroom experience. If at possible, I would suggest that Belmont even incorporate this method into the methods classes.

Make sure the assignments are applicable to the teaching experience and placement I am in. More communication between the education office and the interns/students teachers Step by step through the applications for school districts and answering questions Praxis results and tests needed to be taken for highly qualified status should be communicated to all students EL training

Giving undergraduates opportunities to do the data project in their first placement, mine could have been so much better had I done it there. Also, continuing to tell us what positions are available in the surrounding districts as a lead.

n/a

I feel that the department really needs to find a way to ensure that every candidate receives his/her EL endorsement. When beginning the job search there were many schools within metro that were not even considering candidates who did not already have their endorsement. If Belmont's students are going to stay competitive, they will need to have this additional endorsement.

Lesson planning Preparing students for Praxis exams Making it mandatory that interns see all grade level classrooms

They can offer a timeline for prospective students for the application process saying exactly when EVERYTHING they need is due. That includes tests, paperwork, letters of recommendation, and everything else I've stricken from my memory. Also it was incredibly hard due to the time requirements to keep up money to pay my rent. I understand it is a part of the program, but Belmont is expensive. I wanted to go to this school because it is a great school and education program. Is there anyway to help students so that they can either work or make

some money while in the program?

Make sure that all professors are aware and flexible with assignments and work load given to interns if you continue to schedule classes in the evening after student teaching.

Statistic	Value
Total Responses	14