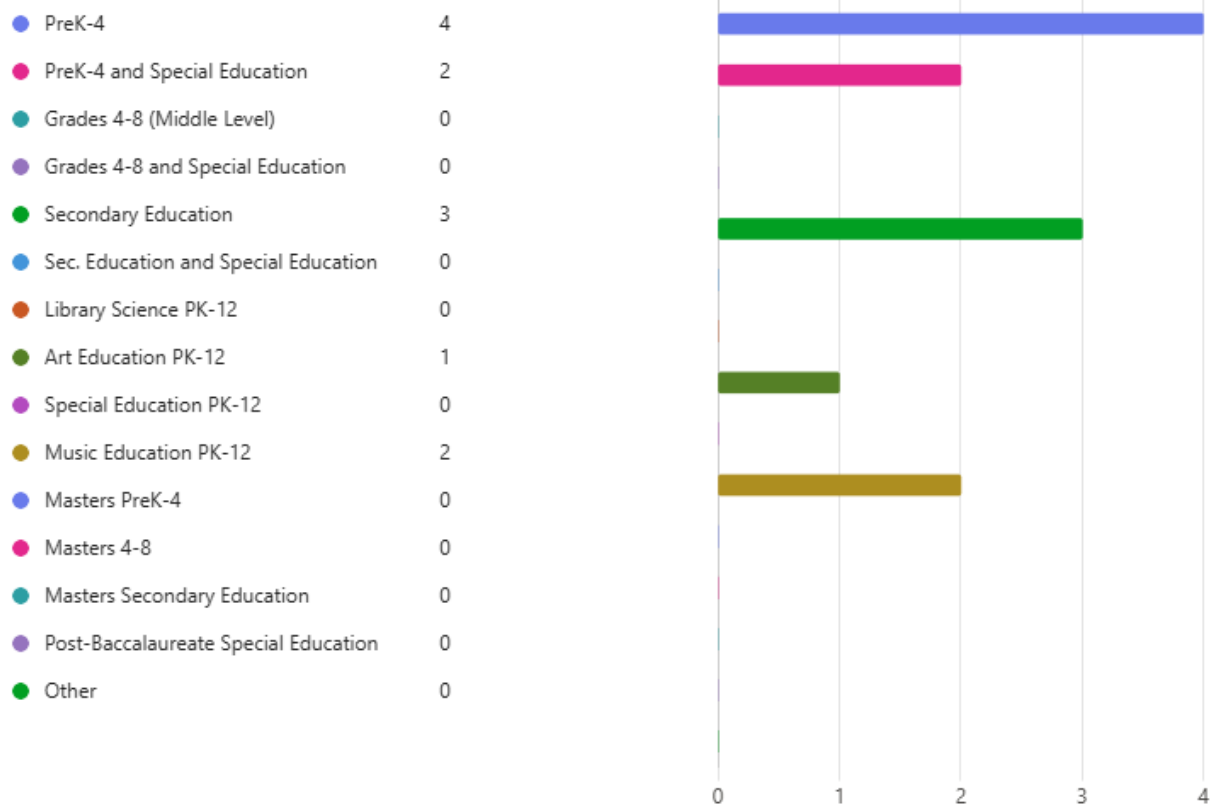


2024 Alumni Survey Results for COE

Are you employed as a long-term substitute or have a contracted position in education?



Check the box for which degree/certification programs were you enrolled at Kutztown University?



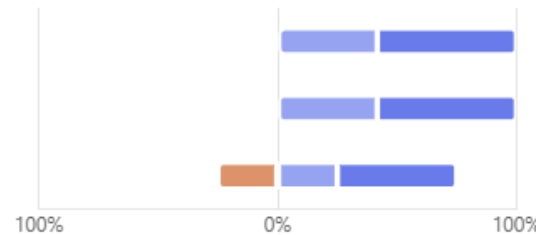
As a result of your professional preparation at Kutztown University, rate how prepared you are to do the following based on a 1-4 scale (1=not prepared, 2=somewhat prepared, 3=prepared, 4=very prepared).

● Not Prepared (1) ● Somewhat Prepared (2) ● Prepared (3) ● Very Prepared (4)

Understand concepts, knowledge, and skills in my content area(s).

Plan instruction, using knowledge of subject matter, learning process, and student development.

Create and manage a positive classroom environment.



Preparation for Employment

As a result of your professional preparation at Kutztown University, rate how prepared you are to do the following based on a 1-4 scale (1=not prepared, 2=somewhat prepared, 3=prepared, 4=very prepared).

● Not Prepared (1) ● Somewhat Prepared (2) ● Prepared (3) ● Very Prepared (4)

Use instructional strategies that promote active student learning.

Deliver instruction enthusiastically.

Use a variety of assessments to determine students' strengths, needs, and ongoing growth.

Use data to inform and adjust instruction.

Vary content, strategies, and/or products to differentiate instruction.

Use technology to advance instruction.

Teach students with a wide variety of exceptional needs, including behavior.

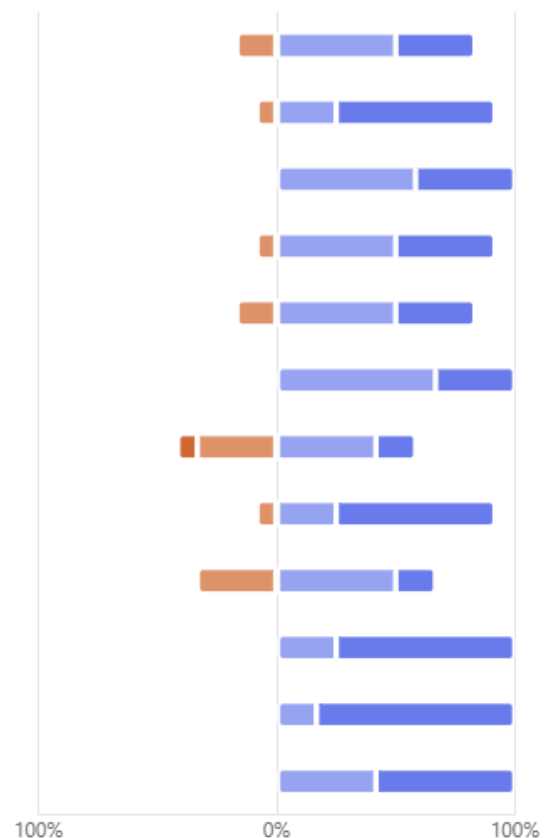
Honor diverse cultures and incorporate culturally responsive materials.

Teach in ways that support English Language Learners.

Act professionally and ethically, using appropriate interpersonal skills.

Understand value of working with colleagues, families, and community agencies in meeting student needs.

Engage in professional growth, including selfreflection, as a means to improve instruction.



Program Structure and Procedures

As a result of your professional preparation at Kutztown University, rate how prepared you are to do the following based on a 1-4 scale (1=not prepared, 2=somewhat prepared, 3=prepared, 4=very prepared).

● Not Prepared (1) ● Somewhat Prepared (2) ● Prepared (3) ● Very Prepared (4)



Thinking back, what were some strengths of your student teaching experience?

Building relationships with peers and coworkers
I had a good mentor teacher who allowed me to experiment with different lesson strategies
My professors were truly amazing. They were extremely supportive and encouraging. I was in East Penn School district which was also a great experience overall.
Feeling prepared for teaching a lesson and handling various situations
Prepared well by my cooperating teacher.
Close ties with school districts, networking opportunities.
Finding engaging strategies for lessons
One of my placements was fantastic, and actually helped me get my job now. I think the biggest aspect of it is that my co-op enjoys his job. During my first placement, my co-op resigned and got a job at another district. By having a co-op and a school that truly loves being educators, it made me feel confident that I was going into the right field.
The ability to adapt and grow through self-reflection

If any, what were some improvements that could take place with student teaching?

Mentor teacher was not immensely helpful in my learning journey.
More IEP meeting experiences.
Focus more on English Language Learners and behavioral needs within a classroom.
More clarity and explanations regarding the certification process, keeping a cert, getting a masters degree in relation to instructional 2 cert
Learning how to deal with extreme behaviors and deescalating students.
I feel that my placement did not prepare me for other school environments. Behavior was great with my students when student teaching and left me in the dark when I started teaching underprivileged students.
Have co-ops be required to provide feedback more regularly. I barely taught at all in my first placement, so I didn't have as many opportunities for feedback.
The opportunity to handle or experience putting together events for students. (Field trips, guest speakers, music concerts)

What were the strengths of your pre-student teaching field experience in your preparation program?

Good feedback from advisor.
Teacher interactions.
The same as my student teaching experience. It was a great experience and being in the classroom setting was extremely beneficial.
I was able to get some of the nerves out before student teaching
A mix of instruction provided by Kutztown University, as well as experience in the field.
Learning how to create engaging lessons, prepare resources on your own, assessing in a variety of ways.
Practice planning with different writing strategies and content
Learning about different classroom environments and the ability to ask teaching questions that aren't specifically related to my major

Looking back, how could your pre-student teaching field experience in your program be improved?

Better feedback from classroom professors on things we observed.
Again, more IEP meetings.
Focus more on using a curriculum to guide instruction as this is what is expected in most districts.
More check ins with KU staff if possible
Focusing on classroom management strategies beyond simple positive strategies i.e pom pom jar
I think there should be more on behavior and recognizing that unfortunately, progressive teaching does not always work with addressing behavioral needs of students
Music Ed doesn't have a pre-student teaching field experience other than required observation hours. The observations are great, and I know our program didn't have time for a Pro-Sem, but the observation schedule was not well organized or well communicated at times. We were often left scrambling to get observations in before a deadline that we weren't entirely aware of. The observations are a wonderful tool, when they are clearly communicated.
Having a scheduled time to do pre-student teaching field experience instead of leaving it up to the student to manage while keeping up with classes for music education
If you are teaching, what has been most surprising to you about your first year(s) of teaching?
The differing levels of support for students based on schools. The school I work at is so different than my student teaching.
Communication with parents.
The behavioral challenges and the expectation of following a curriculum so closely.
How routines and procedures vary from school to school in the same district.
Severe behaviors and lack of prerequisite skills current day students have.
That curriculum has gone backwards and students are scoring wayyyyy lower than they should. Many of my students came into 7th grade at a 4-5th grade level
The amount of lesson planning required was surprising, I expected to be drowning in lesson plans daily. I was able to design all of my own plans for a few days over the summer and have them done for the school year, along with designing my curriculum. It was a lot of work, but then I only need to make small adaptations day to day, and I can revise the lessons as needed.

My district does a great job supporting first year teachers, but I also was not aware of the portfolio and induction requirements for the state.

If you are teaching, what can the College of Education at Kutztown University do to support you during your first year(s) of teaching?

More real life experiences with parents and administrators.

Unsure.

Provide PD opportunities to deal with current day behavior of students.

Alumni services do a great job of assisting with finding jobs. Professors are also very willing to write letters of recommendation and serve as references

What recommendations do you have for future Kutztown University students and graduates?

It's so much different in the real world!

Ask all of the questions during your pre student teaching and student teaching experience!!! I wish I would've asked more.

Ask as many questions as possible about your cert and the processes surrounding it

Practice interviewing as much as possible. Figure out what your values and nonnegotiables are as a teacher and stick to them when you begin teaching. Use things you were taught.

Take time to network and build strong relationships with faculty and local school districts. Complete with observations in a variety of schools.

Join teacher groups to stay up to date on programs that are available for you to use in your classroom and get info on student behavior and interests

See as much as you can!! Do extra observations, make connections! It's a small world, the more professional connections you have the better. You never know, they could help get you a job in the future, it did for me!

Get involved with as much playing as possible and really strengthen your weaknesses in areas that you are not confident in. Take the time and energy to grow and improve, including listening to critique.