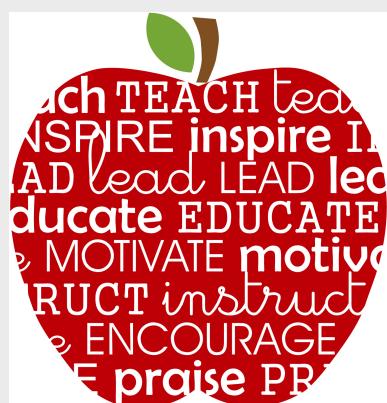


# OFFICE OF TEACHER EDUCATION

## Monthly Newsletter

### Upcoming Events

OTE is hosting interviews continuously each month. Please view the [Interview Request Form](#) for available dates and times.



"Every child deserves a champion...an adult that will never give up on them."

-Rita Pierson

### Starting 2026 Off Right

As we begin a new semester, our focus shifts even more toward putting theory into practice. The coursework you've completed is meant to support what you'll be doing in real classrooms, like planning lessons, working with students, managing learning environments, and reflecting on your teaching decisions.

For many of you, this semester includes field placements, increased classroom responsibility, and preparation for major benchmarks such as edTPA and Praxis exams. So grab a coffee (or two) and use your time in placements intentionally: observe with purpose, ask questions, seek feedback, and take advantage of opportunities to practice and refine your teaching skills. These experiences are key to your growth and readiness for the profession.



Please remember that you are not navigating this alone. Your faculty, academic advisor, mentor teachers, and the Office of Teacher Education staff are here to support you. Reach out early when you need guidance, clarification, or resources. We are here to help you succeed.

### Student Spotlight

#### 2025 -2026 Novice Teacher of the Year

Congratulations to CHS's Novice Teacher of the Year, **Hannah Ashburn**. Mrs. Ashburn began the criminal justice program at CHS offering 3 levels of Criminal Justice courses and overseeing the Career and Technical Student Organization, Cav Law. We appreciate all Mrs. Ashburn does at CHS and her dedication to her students!



Hannah Ashburn, a former Occupational licensure candidate, received the 2025-2026 Novice Teacher of the Year award! Congratulations, Hannah!

Candidates, we want to remind you that the following services and supports are available to all Tennessee Tech students. For a full list of hardship resources, please click [here](#).



### Tennessee Tech Food Pantry

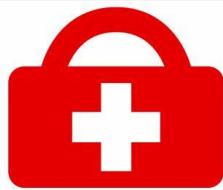
The Tennessee Tech Food Pantry was established as a resource for Tennessee Tech University students and employees in November 2012.

Their mission is to raise awareness of hidden hunger on college campuses across the nation and establish and sustain a network for food acquisition, storage and distribution at Tennessee Tech to alleviate hunger among our campus community. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.tntech.edu/>

### Wings Up-Cycled

Wings Up-Cycled is a free clothing store for all Tennessee Tech students who may need additional clothing items. They also hope to encourage second-hand shopping practices. For more information, please visit their website: <https://www.tntech.edu/sustainability/wings-up-cycled.php>





## CPR & First Aid Training Class

### CPR/AED/First Aid Certification

Candidates are required to show proof of valid CPR, AED, & First Aid training before entering the clinical placement. Certification must include all three: CPR, AED, & First Aid and remain valid throughout clinical placement.

Blended learning CPR certifications are accepted. Fully online certifications WILL NOT be accepted.

Candidates can fax, email, or hand deliver proof of certification by:

- Email: Connie DeRossette, cderossette@tnstate.edu
- Fax: (931) 372-6286
- Delivering to: TJ Farr, Room 103

Candidates can find trainings at Cookeville Regional Medical Center or Heartsaver.

### Important Dates for Spring '26 Student Teachers & Residency Candidates

- February 2, 2026: edTPA Writing Day (except Music Education and Physical Education)
- February 2, 2026: edTPA Task 1 Seminar (Music Education and Physical Education)
- February 3 – 20, 2026: edTPA Videotaping Window
- February 15, 2026: edTPA Task 1 due in Tk20
- February 18, 2026: edTPA Task 2 Seminar (Music Education and Physical Education)
- February 19, 2026: edTPA Task 2 Seminar (Agriculture, Art, Computer Science, ESL, Middle School, and Secondary)
- February 20, 2026: edTPA Task 2 Seminar (Early Childhood,

## Looking for full-time or part-time job opportunities?

Candidates can find openings on the [Career Opportunities](#) page of the College of Education website.

This page is routinely updated and lists full-time teaching positions, part-time positions, and career fair opportunities.

## Praxis Resources

We encourage our candidates to explore the resources located within iLearn in the "OTE Test Prep Course". ETS Study Companions, 240 Tutoring, Mometrix eLibrary and many others can be found within the iLearn course.

## Questions?

Candidates are always encouraged to reach out with any questions or concerns. OTE is happy to assist or redirect your inquiries to the correct office/department.

Phone: (931) 372-3170

Email: [teachereducation@tnstate.edu](mailto:teachereducation@tnstate.edu)



### Important Reminders When Registering for Praxis Exams

When creating your account, the Social Security number field is optional. However, it is not optional for teacher licensure candidates. The Tennessee State Department of Education will match your license application and your Praxis scores by your Social Security number.

At the time of registration, you will also need to select Tennessee Tech (1804) as one of your recipients. If you are taking the exam in Tennessee, it will automatically go to the Tennessee Department of Education. If you are taking an exam in a different state, you will need to add Tennessee Department of Education (8190) as a recipient.

**NOTE: You will need to select Tennessee Tech (1804) EVERY TIME you register for an exam.**

Failure to add your full/correct Social Security number and/or not listing TTU as a score recipient, may result in paying an additional \$50 to send an updated score report.

### Financial Assistance for Praxis Exam

Candidates may be eligible for a fee waiver to cover the cost of a praxis exam.

To be eligible, you must meet the following eligibility criteria:

- You're receiving financial aid.
- You're enrolled in an undergraduate or graduate program and can provide a current Enrollment Verification Certificate. (You're ineligible if you have a master's or a doctoral degree.)
- You can provide the required FAFSA Student Aid Report (SAR) that shows an Expected Family Contribution (EFC) of \$3,000 or less.
- You're required to take a Praxis test by an authorized score recipient.

All requests are processed on a first-come, first-served basis.

For further information on availability and how to apply, please click here: [Praxis Fee Waivers \(ets.org\)](https://www.ets.org/praxis/fee-waivers).

### Praxis Practice Tests

OTE offers full-length practice tests developed by ETS that allow you to answer one set of test questions to simulate what you will experience on the actual day of the test. You can practice using authentic test questions and, after completing the practice test, view your results by content or category along with the correct answers and explanations for each correct answer.

We can accommodate individuals and groups! Interactive practice tests are completed virtually and take anywhere from 2 to 3.5 hours. Availability may be limited. Please email Elora Davis ([eldavis@tnstate.edu](mailto:eldavis@tnstate.edu)) for inquiries.