What Is SAINT?

Southern Arizona Inducting New Teachers is a collaboration between the Teach Arizona Master's Degree Program and the Center for Recruitment and Retention of Mathematics Teachers at The University of Arizona, made possible by a generous grant from the U.S. Department of Education. The goal of this program is to recruit fifty recent college graduates and mid-career professionals over the next five years to enter the secondary mathematics teaching profession through the Teach Arizona program. Participants in this program will commit to teach for at least three years in high-need schools in partner school districts in Tucson while taking part in induction activities offered by the Center.

Both the Teach Arizona (http://www.coe.arizona.edu/ta) program and the Center for Recruitment and Retention (CRR) have excellent records of recruiting, preparing, and supporting mathematics teachers. By entering the SAINT program, you gain access to a prestigious teacher preparation program as well as three years of induction support from an outstanding center for mathematics teachers. And on top of that, you will earn a stipend of $5000 to help you pay off any outstanding student loans or personal expenses.

Why We Want You

We want you to join SAINT because we believe, based on your performance to date in the Teach Arizona program, that you have the potential to be a great mathematics teacher. The purpose of this program is to ensure that students in high-poverty schools have access to teachers like you so that they have the opportunity to succeed in mathematics, as you did when you were in school.

Teaching mathematics is never an easy job, and teaching mathematics in a high-need school can be particularly challenging. We believe that, because the job is challenging, people who commit to do this job should be treated with respect, given lots of support not only from their schools but from the mathematics education community, and offered financial rewards for making the extra effort to help the students who need that help the most. We want you in SAINT because we not only look forward to having you as part of the community of mathematics teachers in Arizona, but also hope we can enlist your help in closing the achievement gap in Tucson and making sure that every child has access to a great math teacher.
Benefits of Joining SAINT

As a teacher in the SAINT program, you will receive:

- A stipend of $5000, which will be paid to you in full when you join the program, and sign the participant agreement and promissory note.
- Priority access to a teaching position in the Tucson Unified School District or Sunnyside Unified School District. If you interview successfully with officials from one of the districts, you will be considered an internal candidate for jobs in that district; this means you will be among the first round of applicants considered when a position opens up.
- Priority access to the CRR Teacher Induction Program, an all-year induction program for first-year teachers, and Mathematics Workshops for Middle and High School Teachers. The Induction Program includes a coach who will visit your school and offer one-on-one mentoring during your first year. The Induction Program and some of the workshops offer stipends for participation.
- Access to a community of outstanding new teachers with whom you will work during your first three years – and hopefully for your entire career.

Your Service Commitment

In order to receive these benefits, you must agree to the following:

- You will complete the Teach Arizona Master's Degree Program.
- You will teach for three years or more in high-need schools in districts that are participating in this grant. Our current partners are Tucson Unified School District and Sunnyside Unified School District.
- You will participate fully in the Induction Program during your first year and attend at least two Mathematics Workshops during each of your second and third years.
- You will participate in a Professional Learning Community during your second and third years.
- You will present a session at the Mathematics Educator Appreciation Day (MEAD) Conference during your third year.
- You will complete all of the above within four years after completing the Teach Arizona program.
- You will allow us to collect certain data about your first few years as a teacher, including questionnaires, journals, and results of classroom observations. This data will be for internal program evaluation purposes only and will have absolutely no impact on your employment status with your district or participation in SAINT.

The $5000 incentive will initially be considered an interest-free loan. This loan will be forgiven in increments after each of your first three years of teaching: $1000 after the first year, $1500 after the second, and the remaining $2500 after the third year, assuming that you participate in all induction and professional development activities. If you are unable to complete the commitment, you must arrange to repay the part of the loan that has not yet been forgiven.
Frequently Asked Questions

How will the $5000 stipend be paid?
The $5000 stipend comes from funding that has been offered by the U.S. Department of Education. Under University of Arizona rules, we must first use the money to pay any outstanding fees you owe the University. After that, you will be given a check for the remaining amount. The funding will flow through your University Bursars’ account.

If I choose to participate in SAINT, will I still be eligible for other tuition assistance or loan forgiveness programs?
Yes! Many teachers in the SAINT program will receive tuition support from more than one source. There is currently a great demand for mathematics teachers in Tucson, and we want to help you gain access to the teaching profession at the lowest cost possible.

Does being in SAINT guarantee that I will receive a teaching job?
Hiring is a decision that will ultimately take place between you and the school district that hires you; we do not have the ability to a district to accept a particular applicant. However, both TUSD and SUSD have expressed a strong interest in working with us on this grant, and if they are impressed with your professionalism and potential as a mathematics teacher, they will make every effort to place you in a high-need school.

Do I have to teach in a particular city or school in order to participate in SAINT?
The U.S. Department of Education grant that has funded this program requires that you teach in a high-need school in a school district that is recognized as a partner on the grant. “High-need schools” are typically high-poverty schools or schools that have historically suffered teacher shortages. There are several middle and high schools in TUSD and SUSD that satisfy these conditions; and while you will not have an unrestricted choice of where you start your teaching career, it is likely that you will have more than one opening available to you – especially if you do well in your coursework and impress the schools that consider hiring you.

Besides teaching in a high-need school, what else will I be required to do?
As a condition of participating in SAINT, you will be expected to participate in induction and professional development opportunities offered by CRR. Although participating in these programs is a significant time commitment, most teachers who complete these programs report that they have been great sources of support and valuable opportunities to discuss issues with colleagues in a welcoming, friendly environment.
If I have to take a year off for personal reasons, will I forfeit my stipend?
No. The service agreement will give you four years to complete your three-year teaching commitment. Therefore, if you have to take a year off, you will still be able to return to the program and complete your service obligation.

If I am unable to complete my service commitment, what will happen?
You will be required to repay the part of the loan that has not been forgiven at the time you leave the program. If you have not yet completed a year of teaching, this will be the full amount of $5000. If you leave after your first year but before the end of your second year, the amount will be $4000. If you leave after your second year but before the end of your third year, the amount will be $2500. The loan you receive from us is interest-free, so you won't have to pay back more than you received from us when you entered the program.

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