

University of Delaware Elementary Methods Block

What is the elementary methods block?

The UD elementary methods block consists of **five courses** that prepare our students to lesson plan and teach in elementary classrooms. We call it a “**block**” because the courses are blocked together so that we can design a course schedule that will allow for consistent time in the field.

The five courses are:

- EDUC310: Reading and Writing in Elementary School
- EDUC335: Elementary Curriculum: Mathematics
- EDUC341: Elementary Curriculum: Science
- EDUC346: Elementary Curriculum: Social Studies
- EDUC390: Classroom Management for Social and Emotional Learning

All the above courses **include field assignments** designed to help our students learn how to design instruction, teach, and manage students in an elementary classroom.

Why do we place UD students in pairs for the most part?

1. For many of our students, this is their first time taking on the role of teacher. Having a partner gives students a little extra security in tackling their first teaching experiences. They learn important skills related to co-planning, co-teaching, and co-reflecting.
2. Due to the size of our program, it can be challenging to find placements. Placing in pairs decreases the number of placements we need and ensures our students are having quality field experiences.

How often are methods students present in your classroom?

They will be expected to **spend full days** in your classroom **on Mondays**. In addition, there will be **two specific weeks** (*see calendar*) when their UD courses are cancelled so that they can spend five consecutive days in the field (M-F). These are when most of their teaching assignments take place. If a scheduled field day falls on a PD Day for you, our students are still expected to attend if possible. If your school is closed during a scheduled day in the field, our students will not have to make up the day.

What do our students need out of their placement?

- A classroom teacher who is willing to mentor our students and share their ideas, challenges, feedback, and of course, students.
- **Access to observing and teaching in all four core content areas**-literacy, math, science, and social studies. This can happen in different ways (see below). Our students will have some lessons to teach.
- **Opportunities to be actively involved** in what happens in the classroom-this can involve working with individual students, teaching small groups, co-teaching lessons, grading work, assisting with duties, etc. We want you to put them to work!!
- Feedback, guidance, encouragement, and support ☺

Can I host UD students if I only teach 1-2 content areas (i.e. grade level team is semi-departmentalized) or if we alternate teaching science and social studies by marking period?

The short answer is...YES! This happens all the time and we almost always can make it work. However, it does take a little bit of maneuvering. If you are in a departmentalized or semi-departmentalized setting,

you can ask teachers that teach the other content area(s) on your team to allow our students to spend time with them on a “part-time” basis. They can either follow your students to their different classrooms or maybe make an agreement to visit every other week can be made. The time they spend with teachers does not have to be equal (i.e. they can spend more of their time with you) but they do need to observe instruction and teach lessons in all four content areas.

If science and social studies instruction alternate between marking period, we can make this work too. Our students will be with you throughout the third and fourth marking periods so they will eventually see both. And they can always teach their required lessons during other instructional periods. For example, a social studies or science lesson might fit in nicely during ELA time because of the literacy standards that are being addressed.

What happens if I have questions or concerns or need to adjust their schedules, teaching assignments, etc.?

You and your UD students will be assigned a **FIELD INSTRUCTOR** from UD who will be available to guide you, respond to questions, and facilitate any adjustments that need to happen. Our field instructors will check in regularly, visit your classroom, and observe the UD students teach at least 2 of their lessons (conferencing with them afterwards). They share their contact information and will try their very best to support you and the UD students ☺

Is there a lot of paperwork or extra work for me to do?

No! For the most part, you are allowing UD students to assist you, work with your students, teach some lessons, while providing guidance and support. Our students will communicate with you when they have an assignment to do. You will be given lesson plans for any lessons they have to teach in advance, so you know what to expect. At the end of the experience, you will just have to complete a final evaluation for each of your methods students and submit it online. That is the only “paperwork” we will collect from you during the experience.

Why should I do this?

We need you! And...UD methods students can help to ease your load!

- Every Monday and during two full field weeks, you will have 2 sets of extra hands to assist with the daily grind. Put your UD students to work! They are eager to be involved.
- Students in your class who need extra support/guidance can receive it.
- Our students can breathe in new life and excitement. Children love having new faces in the classroom to work with them.
- Delaware teachers will receive 25 recertification hours for the renewal of a continuing license.
- You will have the pleasure of knowing that you made a huge impact in the professional development of a young teacher. Our students continually tell us that their field experiences are the most impactful to their learning and development.

