

Fall 2026 Application

Application Opens

Monday, March 16, 2026

Application Closes

Monday, April 20, 2026

The Student Teacher Educator Preparation University Partnership (STEP-UP) program provides a year-long mentorship program where teacher candidates spend one day per week at their P-12 classroom in the first semester, then stay in that same classroom for their student teaching semester.

Program Benefits

The STEP-UP program provides:

- An immersive and intensive teaching experience designed and implemented by university faculty and district educators,
- Co-teaching opportunities with carefully selected mentor teachers throughout the year-long experience,
- Engagement with university faculty to discuss connections between theory and practice,
- Opportunities to experience a variety of school activities over the school year, participating in all aspects of school life, including in-service training, faculty meetings, and ARD meetings,
- District onboarding to prepare candidates for the expectations, policies, and procedures of the district, in advance of job interviews and the possibility for early hire in the district.

Requirements

- Candidates for the Fall 2026 cohort must be:
- Admitted into the UTRGV Teacher Preparation program
- Eligible for Clinical Teaching in Spring 2027
- At a 3.0 or higher GPA
- In the elementary teacher program or secondary program per district need
- Selected through an application and interview process

School District Partnerships

Harlingen CISD
Los Fresnos CISD
McAllen ISD

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utrgv.edu/watermark

Request More Information
steve.chamberlain@utrgv.edu

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Requirements

