

Professional Training and Support



What type of training will I receive?

Corps members participate in the specially designed **Alternative Teacher Certification Program (ATCP)**, developed in partnership with and provided by the **Northwestern University School of Education and Social Policy**. Seminar topics include classroom management, lesson planning, evaluation and assessment, curriculum planning, development of culturally relevant activities, special education, parent conferences, multiple intelligences, portfolio development, and teaching methods for Literacy, Math, Science, and Social Studies. Upon successful completion of the ATCP program, Corps members earn an initial Alternative State of Illinois Teacher Certificate and 22 credits toward a Masters of Science in Education from Northwestern University. (Full and partial scholarships are available for those choosing to complete the Masters.)

Does my training continue beyond the first summer?

Absolutely. ATCP begins with an intensive 8-week Summer Training Institute and continues throughout your two years with regular in-class observations by an ICTC supervisor, seminars, and classes at Northwestern University specifically geared for inner-city teachers.

Do I have to go through the training if I majored in Education?

Yes, all VTC teachers must go through the ATCP training program. Many Education majors have found the emphasis on inner-city teaching to be particularly valuable as they build upon their previous knowledge. Education majors wishing to complete the Masters program may also qualify for an advanced track in Talent Development, Issues of Teaching and Learning (focus on Literacy, Math, or Science), Service Learning, or Middle School Science.

How else do you support your teachers?

We have a group of full- and part-time professional development staff who oversee your teaching experience and your training. One of these staff members will be assigned to observe your classroom teaching twice a month during your first year. While all of our staff is available to help you, this person will be your point person if you have questions or need advice. A veteran member of your school will also receive extra training and serve as your school mentor, a second year volunteer will be assigned as your peer mentor, and there may be current or former ICTC teachers also working in your school. Research increasingly indicates the value of mentoring for new teachers, and we strive to provide a number of informal mentors as well: the VTC staff members are all former teachers, you live in a community of teachers, and there is a strong and vibrant ICTC alumni community that is anxious to help our current volunteers.

In addition to supporting you through training and mentorship, we have a resource center full of teaching materials, as well as a teacher workroom that includes a letter cutter, laminator, and photocopier. You will also receive \$100 at the beginning of the year and \$50 per month after that to help you maintain your classroom, and up to \$400 per year to help you support extracurricular activities at your school.

Beyond teaching support, each house is assigned two support people to serve as mentors for the community. These support people are typically former VTC members who facilitate reflections throughout the year, and meet with your house once a week to have dinner. ICTC also maintains connections with spiritual directors and counselors. These services will be available to you should you desire them.

On Professional Support...

"I felt like ICTC offered the most extensive support of any program I looked at. The amount of mentoring we receive from both experienced teachers and other staff is simply phenomenal."

Emily Hogge, University of Virginia