

About the Teaching Foundations Project

In September 2009, the US Department of Education awarded a major Teacher Quality Enhancement award to Arizona State University. Objective 1 created The Teaching Foundations Project (TFP).

The Teaching Foundations Project promotes the idea that "Great Learners Make Great Teachers" through delivering rigorous and highly engaging undergraduate coursework through creation, piloting, and distribution of curriculum.

For four years, the Teaching Foundations Project focused on the content-area preparation of future elementary (PreK-6) teachers in the arts, English language arts, mathematics, the sciences, and "social studies" in the K-12 schools: geography, economics, government, and history.

Faculty from Arizona State University, partner community colleges, and key members of the K-12 community collaborated to create syllabi, suggested texts, instructor notes, and a wealth of supplemental teaching materials. These materials are now available in the Professional Learning Library (PLL) for wide utilization.

Teaching Foundations Project materials in the PLL are organized as semester-long courses for undergraduates in the arts, English Language Arts, math, science, and social studies. These are not methods courses: they are proven general studies/introductory disciplinary courses for all students.

Each course aspires to excellence by meeting the quality indicators outlined in the Teaching Foundations Project rubric ([link](#)) that guided the assessment of progress throughout the project.

Each course was developed under the auspices of a content-area consortium led by Arizona State University and community college faculty. Small teams of educators wrote each course, bringing in a wealth of expertise and instructional wisdom. Nationally recruited external evaluators used the TFP rubric to assess each course. Beginning in the fall of 2011, more than 2,500 students participated in more than 130 TFP piloted sections across Arizona.

The Teaching Foundations Project courses are now organized for utilization in the Professional Learning Library by college and university instructors, teacher educators, ambitious future teachers, veteran teachers looking to enhance their knowledge, and anyone interested in foundational ideas in each of the academic disciplines.

Some of the Teaching Foundations Project courses are required in the ASU Mary Lou Fulton Teachers College professional preparation sequence for future elementary teachers - others are electives or recommended.

In 2012, the Teaching Foundations Project won Arizona State University's President's Medal for Social Embeddedness. By leading collaboration across the broad educational community of Arizona, the Project has provided a pathway for undergraduates to experience rigorous, inquiry-based learning.