

Seattle Teacher Residency Program

Application Information

How do I apply?

See the STR program page for more details on application requirements. When you're ready, all applications are submitted through the University of Washington Graduate School online application, linked here: <https://grad.uw.edu/admissions/apply-now/>

You will also need to submit the Seattle Public Schools STR Application here: <https://tinyurl.com/SPSSTRApp>

What does the application process/timeline look like?

For Cohort 14, the application deadline will be December 12, 2025. After your application is submitted, your file is reviewed by the STR Admissions Committee and will take about a month to complete. If an applicant's scores pass File Review, they will be invited to Interview Day.

Interviews will be held on February 10, 2026 for Cohort 14 applicants.

Interview Day is an all day event in which applicants will interview with STR staff, mentors, Alums and community partners and engage in a variety of learning activities designed to see if the residency program is the right fit. Interview Day is a mandatory part of the application process and will be held in-person for Cohort 14 applicants.

If someone is from out-of-state or out-of-country, we will host a different time online.

What is the STR admissions committee looking for?

Our ideal Resident candidate brings the following attributes to the program:

- A commitment to teach in Seattle Public Schools for a minimum of 5 years (post-residency)
- A passion for serving students from diverse backgrounds
- A strong commitment to social justice and equity
- A deep belief that ALL students can learn and deserve an equitable education
- An urgent sense of responsibility for student learning
- Openness and willingness to engage in the toughest questions re: equity, race, gender, socio-economics, as well as white supremacy, privilege and positionality
- A learner stance and commitment to ongoing reflection, collaboration and communication
- Organizational skills in time management, planning, scheduling, coordinating resources, and meeting deadlines
- Resilience, perseverance, and openness to ask for support – especially when faced with challenges
- Have volunteered in or have prior work experience in a) organizations that serve the academic, emotional, physical, social need of diverse students; b) in urban schools; c) serving K-12 youth
- Successful advocacy work with diverse populations (linguistic, cultural, social, and economic)
- Family, community and/or work experiences reflective of intentional commitments to access and equity



The application deadline is December 12, 2025 for Summer 2026 start!

File Reviews by UW/STR Staff: January 2026

Selection Day/Interview Day: February 10, 2026

Admission Offers: End of March 2026

Program Timeline: June 2026 - August 2027

The following items must be included with your application by the deadline to be complete for the admissions review.

All materials will be submitted through the online Graduate School application and SPS application.

Detailed descriptions of the application requirements can be found on our website.

STEP 1: CREATE AN ACCOUNT WITH THE UNIVERSITY OF WASHINGTON GRADUATE SCHOOL

Please visit https://apply.grad.uw.edu/portal/gr_app and create an account to start a new application.

STEP 2: GATHER ALL REQUIRED DOCUMENTS

Bachelor's Degree & **Unofficial Transcripts

***If admitted to STR, official transcripts will be required.*

- Degree can be in-progress when applying but must be completed before program starts
- Include transcripts from all schools attended within the previous five years
- Include transcripts from all schools from which a degree was earned
- Minimum GPA of 3.0*

**The UW Graduate School requires a cumulative GPA of 3.0, or 3.0 for your most recent 90 graded quarter credits (60 semester credits). However, we will review your application holistically. If your GPA is below 3.0, contact uwteach@uw.edu for advice on how to strengthen your overall application.*

Reported Basic Skills Scores (WEST-B or equivalent)

All Washington teacher candidates are required to take a basic skills assessment in reading, writing and math. Most applicants take the Washington Educator Skills Test-Basic (WEST-B) to meet this requirement. In lieu of WEST-B, you may use reading, writing, and math subtest scores from the SAT , ACT , CBEST and Praxis I.

- Older scores that do not include a writing subtest can be used for reading and math, but must be supplemented with a new writing test.
- You can upload your score report when completing your application. Official scores are only needed if you don't have a score report or if you haven't previously submitted scores to UW as an undergraduate.
- A limited number of WEST-B vouchers are available, please let us know if you would benefit from one.

Legal Work Authorization

Be legally authorized to work in the United States. Seattle Public Schools does not sponsor work or study visas, and therefore, all STR applicants will need to hold legal work authorization.

STEP 3: CREATE A PROFESSIONAL RESUME

Professional Resume

Your professional resume should include work, education, awards, organizations or any volunteer experience - especially with children or serving and supporting marginalized communities.

Ensure that you have dates, location and descriptors of what you accomplished. Active verbs are helpful!

SAVE RESUME AS: FirstnameLastname_Resume

STEP 4: OBTAIN 3 PROFESSIONAL REFERENCE LETTERS

3 Letters of Recommendation

You should ask 3 different references to submit recommendation letters. Select references who can speak to your professional career and personal values as it relates to teaching in Seattle Public Schools. Please do not choose a personal friend or family member. If you are working with students in a school, please ask an Administrator or lead teacher to complete a recommendation letter for you.

You will list your recommenders in the online application. They will receive a link by email to submit your letter.

Please share this with your references on our behalf:

Thank you for taking the time to write a letter of reference. (Your full name) is applying to the Seattle Teacher Residency (STR) program, a pathway into teaching that blends classroom experience with aligned, graduate-level course work and an intensive year-long resident/mentor partnership in Seattle Public Schools (more information can be found at STR Website). You have been identified by the applicant as someone who can attest to their attributes as reflected in the areas below. Please include any information that will help us in determining this applicant's eligibility. Please note that your input is VERY important to both the applicant and to the selection committee for STR.

In your letter, please include:

- Your name, how long you have known this applicant and in what capacity you have known them.
- Your understanding of (with examples to the extent you have knowledge):
 - the applicant's ability to work well when collaborating with others and demonstrates the ability to resolve conflict.
 - the applicant's responsiveness to feedback and commitment to ongoing learning and reflection.
 - the applicant's strength with interpersonal and communication skills.
 - the applicant's ability to prioritize and manage time by being organized and creating systems to complete tasks.
 - the applicant's ability to face and overcome a challenging situation.
 - the applicant's commitment to equity, anti-racist practices and social justice.
 - the applicant's commitment to Seattle and teaching in Seattle Public Schools for 5 or more years.
- Please also share anything else you would like to tell us about this applicant.

STEP 5: WRITE A STATEMENT OF PURPOSE

Statement of Purpose

Submission guidelines for the STR Statement of Purpose:

- Please address the 3 sections in one document and upload it to the UW Graduate School application.
- Respond in essay format (include paragraphs as needed).
- Double-space with 12 font size. Consider using fonts such as Times New Roman, Garamond or Calibri.
- Answers should be clear, concise and complete in order to demonstrate your writing proficiency.
- Your statement should demonstrate your commitment to teaching diverse students in Seattle Public Schools.
- Respond to each section and allot up to the maximum words indicated.
- Speak your truth!

STEP 6: SUBMIT YOUR UW APPLICATION

UW Graduate School Application

Submit your UW Graduate School Application on:
https://apply.grad.uw.edu/portal/gr_app

The Grad School non-refundable application fee is \$90.
You may request a waiver. If you plan to request an application waiver, please do so at least 7 days before the application deadline as it takes a few days for the waiver to be finalized.

STEP 6: SUBMIT YOUR SPS STR APPLICATION

Seattle Public Schools STR Application

In addition to the UW Graduate School application, you must submit the Seattle Public Schools Seattle Teacher Residency Application.

This application will ask for your resume and references; you may use the same ones as used for the UW Graduate School application.

Questions? Email info@seattleteacherresidency.org.