

Mississippi Teacher Corps Interest Letter 2012

In 1989, Andy Mullins, Special Assistant to the State Superintendent of Mississippi, and Amy Gutman, a journalism student from Harvard University, were looking for a way to tackle the Mississippi Delta's chronic teacher shortage. Thinking of the work done by the Peace Corps overseas, they founded the Mississippi Teacher Corps, a program designed to bring college graduates throughout the United States to meet this need. Since that time, MTC has brought over 500 participants to critical-needs school districts all over the state to teach an estimated 100,000 students.

Today, the MTC continues to serve Mississippi as an alternate-route teacher certification program for non-education majors. Participants commit to teaching in a critical-needs school district for two years while taking classes in the summer and on the weekends to earn a Master's Degree in Curriculum and Instruction at the University of Mississippi. MTC provides training and support, job placement that includes full pay and benefits for the two years, and a full scholarship for the master's program. Most importantly, MTC gives its participants a chance to make a difference in the lives of students in one of the poorest areas of the country.

- [Learn more about the program and its history.](#)

First-year teachers arrive in Oxford, Mississippi at the beginning of June, where they receive their initial training through MTC-specific classes and by teaching in conjunction with second-year teachers and program alumni in the MTC's summer school in Holly Springs. During this time, they learn the basics of lesson planning, have a chance to teach real students in a controlled environment, and develop a support group for the coming year. In the fall, teachers leave for their individual districts with fundamental skills and realistic expectations.

- [Learn more about our summer training.](#)

MTC prides itself on its competitiveness, small size, and sober understanding of the challenges facing American education. In 2011, MTC accepted only 10 percent of applicants, making it the most selective teacher training program in the country. Because of this, each class of incoming teachers has a real chance to bond as a group. They live and teach together during the summer and take all their classes as one cohort. Additionally, MTC does not hide the enormity of the task it has given itself. Participants know from the first day that, though they have a chance to make a real impact on students' lives, they cannot fix the education system or even their own schools as two-year teachers. All participants keep blogs cataloging their experiences, from the greatest triumphs to the most humbling difficulties.

- [Read a second-year's blog post from April 2012.](#)

The Mississippi Teacher Corps gives its participants the experience they need to be successful teachers while committing itself wholeheartedly to the education of the children in the state where it was born. In doing so, it aims to help produce a new generation of educational leaders who can carry on the nation's most important undertaking.

- [Visit the MTC's website.](#)