2017 Core Training Participant Expectations

What is Core Training?

Core Training is an intense and immersive professional development experience, generally offered at a PLTW Affiliate Site. The focus of core training is to enhance participant skills and knowledge related to course-specific pedagogy and content. Core training is designed to empower teachers with the confidence, understanding, and knowledge necessary to teach the curriculum. A teacher may teach a PLTW course only after **successfully** completing the corresponding professional development requirements.

What is the pace of Core Training?

Core training for PLTW Engineering, PLTW Biomedical Science, and PLTW Computer Science is an 80-hour instructional program. PLTW Gateway units are taught in 24- or 40-hour sessions. Core training covers major course concepts and methods, but not the entire curriculum. The pace of instruction is accelerated and rigorous with little allowance for outside distractions during training. For a participant to successfully complete core training and be certified to later teach the curriculum within his/her own classroom, he/she must meet the expectations as outlined below.

What is the time commitment?

Prior to arrival at core training, participants will be required to complete prerequisite training courses, provided online and asynchronously. Each prerequisite course will generally require 2-4 hours to complete, and most course credential tracks consist of between 3 and 5 prerequisite courses. Therefore, participants should plan to spend between a minimum of 6-10 hours completing prerequisite courses prior to arrival at core training. Please note that successful completion of prerequisite courses prior to arrival at core training is a requirement.

Beyond the time spent during in-class instruction, participants should plan to spend a few to several hours on homework each night and over the weekend, if they want to successfully complete core training. The time required to complete core training concept assignments will vary based upon each participant's knowledge of the topic and previous experience.

To ensure that participants devote their full attention to the mastery of coursework and work collaboratively on project assignments, PLTW strongly recommends that participants stay on

site for the duration of core training. Staying onsite allows teachers to work together during the evening and have access to additional help provided by Master Teachers. Due to the accelerated pace of core training, the only time for additional assistance will be in the evenings or on weekends. Most participants find lodging onsite for the duration of core training to be an enriching experience and take advantage of the focused environment, free from the rest of life's distractions.

Am I ready to teach?

All participants in core training are required to complete all core training assignments to the level their Master Teachers deem adequate, which requires completion and submission of artifacts as assigned by the Master Teacher. The Master Teacher will periodically review and provide feedback on completed portions of core training concept assignments.

Core training provides a comprehensive overview of the course content and is not inclusive of the full scope and breadth of the course. Due to time constraints, core training provides an introduction to select activities, projects, and problems within the course, as well as pedagogical strategies.

What is expected of me?

To ensure a successful training experience, the following participant expectations have been established.

Prior to Onsite Core Training

- All prerequisite courses must be successfully completed 24 hours prior to the start of your onsite core training event.
- **On the laptop and/or tablet that you will bring to core training**, download and install all required course-specific core training software as outlined in the prerequisite courses.

During Onsite Core Training

- Arrive on opening day with a laptop that meets or exceeds PLTW computer specifications, with required course-specific software already loaded.
- Establish network access at the training site.

- Arrive on time to all daily class sessions (attendance will be taken twice daily).
- Actively participate in classroom instruction.
- Complete all required assignments.
- Turn off all cell phones during classroom instruction unless absolutely necessary. If critical, attend to necessary calls outside of the classroom.
- Treat all participants and instructors professionally and with respect.
- **It is the participant's full responsibility to successfully meet all core training expectations and to become competent in the full scope of the specific PLTW curriculum and related instructional practices before instructing any students.**

Personal Improvement Plan

PLTW, Inc. has established an intervention process, called the Personal Improvement Plan (PIP),that provides flexibility, encouragement, and support for participants who are experiencing difficulties in satisfactorily completing core training. Every effort will be made to work with the participant to address specific learning needs so that they can successfully complete their training.