A long tradition of engagement

First established in the early 1960s, the ACM Urban Education Program has had a long tradition of engagement with Chicago schools and the city’s education community. ACM student teachers in Chicago are among the best-equipped new professionals entering the field of education, and they join an extensive network of ACM alumni in the city’s public schools and education-related organizations.

Student Teaching in Chicago

- Student teaching in Chicago Public School classrooms
- Experienced mentors and supervisors
- Weekly student teaching seminar
- Development of a professional portfolio
- Community engagement

Detail from a mural at Telpochcalli Elementary School in Chicago, where several Urban Education program alumni are teachers.

Expand your world.

ACM brings a liberal arts perspective to your off-campus experience. Programs emphasize strong academics and cultural immersion through:

- Close faculty mentoring, a supportive learning environment, and access to local experts;
- Opportunities to pursue your individual interests via independent study projects, hands-on research, and internships;
- Place-based teaching, integrative housing, and community engagement.

The Associated Colleges of the Midwest (ACM) is a consortium of independent liberal arts colleges in Illinois, Iowa, Minnesota, Wisconsin, and Colorado. ACM offers distinctive off-campus study programs in Africa, Asia, Europe, Latin America, and the U.S.
A shared learning process

On the ACM Urban Education Program, students engage in an urban student teaching experience with support and guidance — both inside and outside the classroom — to foster their learning and growth as teachers.

Throughout the semester, students develop their professional skills at placements in Chicago public schools. Cooperating teachers are selected to be active mentors, and supervisors make eight to ten visits during the semester.

The weekly seminar provides first-hand exposure to current issues and new practices and connects educational theory to the students’ teaching in the classroom.

The program emphasizes collaborative learning, as students conduct an ongoing and informal discussion with a network of peers to work through common issues and learn from each other’s experiences.

Program participants have extensive opportunities to enjoy the city’s tapestry of cultures and people during neighborhood explorations and excursions to cultural institutions.

A diverse city and schools

Chicago’s three million residents come from a wide range of ethnic, linguistic, socio-economic and religious backgrounds. With more than 80 cultures represented, the city’s schools reflect this diversity.

The nation’s third largest school system, Chicago Public Schools (CPS) enrolls more than 400,000 students in 675 schools, providing many opportunities for student teachers. CPS offers a range of schools — such as neighborhood, magnet, charter, technical and career, and military — with a wide variety of missions and academic emphases.

On the program, students learn to navigate the CPS system, with exposure to its complexities and coaching on how to be an effective teacher within this context.

For more details, go to acm.edu/teaching

Dates  Fall semester (late August - mid-December)
        Spring semester (mid-January - mid-May)

Enrollment  Maximum of 20 students

Curriculum
- **Student Teaching**  Student teachers are generally placed in Chicago public school classrooms with carefully-selected cooperating teachers and supervisors, where they fulfill all requirements for the final practicum stage of their teacher certification program.

- **Student Teaching Seminar**  In the weekly Student Teaching Seminar, students reflect on cross-cultural history and educational theory in the context of their day-to-day lives in the classroom. Small-group resource sessions provide additional opportunities for students to discuss issues and questions about teaching, and to receive peer feedback about their practice.

- **Professional Portfolio**  Each student conducts an inquiry into his/her own development as a teacher and completes all the requirements for a compelling Professional Portfolio.

- **Community Engagement**  Student teachers participate in all activities at their placement schools, including faculty and parent meetings, in-service workshops, and school-related community meetings.

Credits and distribution  Recommended credit is 16 semester credits or the equivalent. Students should consult their advisors about the amount and distribution of credit before enrolling in the program.

Eligibility  Participants must have approval for student teaching from their college’s education department.

Living arrangements  Students live together with their student teaching cohort in apartments in the city provided by ACM. Students who have a primary residence in Chicago may request to live at home while participating in the program.

Costs  For information about program costs and an expense budget, go to acm.edu/teaching. Students also should check with their advisor and Financial Aid Office for information about their college’s pricing policies for student teaching in Chicago.

How to apply
- Access the ACM application at www.acm.edu/apply.
- Students should check with their advisor about their college’s application process and student teaching deadlines.
- ACM must receive completed applications by:
  - **February 15** — Fall semester deadline and early deadline for spring semester of the following academic year
  - **September 15** — Spring semester deadline