

St. Mary's Bachelor of Education Attendance Requirements:

Part of what distinguishes a professional program such as Education from other undergraduate programs is a commitment to professional practice and the expectations that come with the teaching profession. One such practice is a commitment to engage and to be fully present in each one of your classes.

It is the expectation of the STMU Bachelor of Education program that your attendance in each class is mandatory. Missing a class and/or failing to communicate with a professor regarding any absence before the start of class may result in losing marks up to the equivalent percentage of course hours missed. Repeated absences (beyond a single class within a course) will be documented to ensure you are offered support and for the Dean of Education to determine whether you have the necessary capacity and commitment to continue the program. We recognize that circumstances related to your health or significant personal situations of an urgent and unexpected nature may make an absence unavoidable. Such absences will be treated compassionately, and professors will make reasonable accommodations for students needing to miss class. Allowances for absences related to religious observances will also be honoured.

Additional Information:

- Holidays, travel, job-related activities, and other personal events are not acceptable reasons for missing classes or practicum days. If your plans interfere with your ability to attend you may take a leave of absence and may return the following year, but only if space permits.
- Meetings with cooperating teachers (CT) will occur during non-class times. Missing class to meet with your CT is not permitted.
- Virtual attendance is not supported and does not excuse an absence, given the interactive nature of our courses and the privacy concerns that arise from this form of participation. In the same way, projecting a teacher virtually into a classroom full of children would not be deemed an acceptable alternative to a teacher's physical presence.
- Dishonesty about an absence constitutes non-academic misconduct, as defined by St. Mary's University (see StMU's Academic Calendar, pp. 49-51).

Rationale:

The importance of attendance is clear in research and practice and extends beyond your own learning. When you are present, your contributions help further the learning of your peers through conversation and collaboration, while your absence denies them these opportunities to learn. Further, your presence signals to your professors, practicum advisors, CTs, and education staff—all with connections to schools and districts—that you are committed to the professional obligations of a demanding career. Principals want teachers they can depend upon to be there because their students need them to be a dependable presence in their lives. Your training and professional formation begin with your entry into the program.

By continuing in this program, it is understood that you understand and acknowledge the requirements and rationale stated above and will endeavor to fully abide by them.