

ACHIEVE MIAMI'S TEACHER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM EXPANDS TO MIAMI-DADE COLLEGE AND FLORIDA INTERNATIONAL UNIVERSITY

TAP, now in its second year, offers college students and career changers with a four-year degree a path to a profession in education.

MIAMI, FL – November 9, 2023 – In its second program year, the Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP), a Miami-based non-profit that recruits, trains, places, and mentors aspiring teachers, is launching at Miami-Dade College (MDC) and Florida International University (FIU) for the Spring 2024 semester. The expansion of TAP follows the program's pilot at University of Miami, where more than 40 college seniors entered the program and pursued careers in teaching. With the program now in place at Miami-Dade College, any adult with a four-year degree can now enroll in TAP for the first time.

The growth of TAP comes as classrooms in Florida and across the U.S. contend with a chronic talent shortage that has left hundreds of thousands of students without a full-time teacher. TAP is solving the shortage by creating a pipeline to a career in education and recruiting a new generation of teachers.

"Many college graduates and career changers have skills that are tailor-made for teaching, but they lack a clear path to the profession," said Leslie Miller Saiontz, Founder of the Teacher Accelerator Program. "TAP opens their eyes to the benefits of a career in education and guides them through the process of becoming a teacher."

TAP fills vacant teaching positions in Miami by equipping candidates with the required skills to become teachers. Participants take a one-semester course, followed by a six-week paid summer internship, earn a certificate to teach, and begin instructing in a Miami-Dade County Public School classroom.

- At Miami-Dade College, college students on track to graduate and those with a college degree can enroll in course EPI 0004, with enrollment now available through January 9. For career changers, applying to MDC is the first step to course enrollment.
- At Florida International University, students on track to graduate with a degree in any major can join course EDG 3321, conducted in person on campus. The enrollment period for FIU runs through January 16.
- At the University of Miami, students on track to graduate can enroll in TAL 590 and grad students are able to enroll in TAL 690 through January 24.

ABOUT THE TEACHER ACCELERATOR PROGRAM

Teacher Accelerator Program (TAP) is a non-profit organization creating a pipeline of talent for the teaching profession through recruiting, preparing, and mentoring aspiring educators. TAP's comprehensive and streamlined program equips college students and career changers with the skills, knowledge, and certification necessary to excel in the classroom. TAP addresses the nationwide teacher shortage crisis by providing a built-in path to teaching, inspiring a new generation of educators.

TAP participants take a one-semester course, followed by a six-week paid summer internship, earn a certificate to teach and begin instructing in a Miami-Dade County Public School classroom. TAP is an initiative of Achieve Miami, supported by Teach for America Miami-Dade, and is offered by the University of Miami, Florida International University and Miami-Dade College. Learn more at teacheraccelerator.org.

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