



Summer Training Institute – Participant Expectations

What is STI?

Project Lead The Way® core training is an integral part of a 3-phase professional development program that is offered during the summer on university campuses around the country. It is a foundational component of teacher preparation that is necessary to ensure an instructor's readiness to deliver PLTW curricula to students. The **Summer Training Institute (STI)** provides a collaborative setting where teachers are immersed in content-specific, project-based instruction.

What is the pace?

It is an intensive two-week instructional program that covers a year's worth of curriculum in 10-days. Due to the concentrated nature of the delivery of curriculum and materials, it is recommended that participants follow the guidelines below to avoid falling behind in the coursework.

Accelerated programs, like those offered at the STI, have a greater potential for participants to feel overwhelmed if they begin to fall behind in the coursework. It is recommended that participants stay on campus for the duration of the STI. The university setting provides a collaborative environment and promotes peer to peer interaction. It also enables participants to devote their full attention to the mastery of coursework and to work collaboratively on project assignments. Most participants find living on campus to be an enriching experience and take advantage of the collegial atmosphere and opportunity for professional growth.

What is the time commitment?

STI classes run 5 days a week for 2 weeks for approximately 8 hours per day. There are "homework" components to most of the STI courses. The time it takes to complete assignments will vary for all participants, depending on an individual's knowledge of the topic and previous experience with the material. Staying on campus allows teachers to work together during the evening and to have access to additional help that is provided by the instructors. Each day the instructors will move forward with the curriculum, so it is essential that problems with the material are addressed and resolved as they occur. Due to the short duration of the STI, the only time for additional assistance will be in the evenings.

Am I ready to teach?

Participants who *successfully* complete the STI will receive a Certificate of Completion for the course at the conclusion of the STI. Issuance of a certificate is contingent upon the participant's demonstration of core competencies and understanding of course concepts, successful completion of all required course materials as well as his or her record of daily attendance. The final decision to grant or withhold a certificate is at the discretion of the STI instructors and Affiliate Director.

The Summer Training Institute provides a comprehensive **overview** of the course content, and is not inclusive of the full scope and breadth of the course. Due to the time constraints inherent in a 2-week professional development session, the STI provides only an introduction to select lessons, activities and projects within the course. In preparation to teach the course, it is the responsibility of the participant to continue to familiarize him or herself with the **entire** course curriculum upon completing the STI. All participants are encouraged to visit the PLTW Virtual Academy (www.pltw.org) to access supplementary online lessons that have been developed to further prepare teachers in a variety of PLTW courses.

What is expected of me?

To ensure a successful STI experience, all participants are encouraged to review the following list of expectations.

Participant Expectations

All participants at Summer Training Institutes are expected to:

1. arrive on opening day with a laptop that meets or exceeds PLTW computer specifications, as outlined in the Participant Information Packet, to load appropriate software and to establish network access;
2. arrive **on time** at all daily class sessions (attendance will be taken twice daily);
3. actively participate in classroom instruction;
4. complete **all** required assignments and to assemble a portfolio;
5. attend evening sessions, if necessary (enrichment activities are optional unless your instructor indicates otherwise);
6. turn all cell phones and pagers off during class instruction, unless absolutely necessary and then please set to vibrate. Only critical calls should be answered, and then outside of the classroom;
7. treat all participants and instructors professionally and with respect;
8. continue to review and become familiar with all curriculum material and work toward skill mastery after leaving the STI.