

# PDS Center for Teaching and Learning

## SUNY Buffalo State English Education



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### Program Overview

**PDS Center for Teaching and Learning** is a Professional Development Schools Consortium (PDS) internship program for Buffalo State teacher candidates. It includes participation in pre-travel meetings during September and October and an immersive 1-week internship at the Center for Teaching and Learning (CTL) in Edgecomb, Maine in mid-October.

The CTL (<http://c-t-l.org/>) is a K-8 independent demonstration school that focuses on workshop approaches to literacy learning, small class sizes, respect for children, relationships of trust between faculty and parents, and programs that engage and prepare students for life. CTL was founded by Buffalo State alumna and *Global Teacher Prize* winner, Nancie Atwell, one of the most respected educators in the US and across the world. Nancie's classic *In the Middle*, now in its third edition, has inspired generations of teachers; in it she describes her teaching journey and innovative reading and writing workshop practices that transform elementary and secondary classrooms. The CTL is certified by the New England Association of Schools and Colleges and draws from nearly twenty towns and villages to create a loving, close-knit community of students and families.

Participants engage in a workshop-based internship where they will observe classrooms at CTL, collaborate with CTL teachers and students, and learn from school administrators and curricular leaders about the cutting-edge cross-curricular literacy practices at CTL. Prior to travel, participants will read Atwell's seminal work, *In the Middle*, to explore the workshop model and prepare for clinical experiences and discussions at CTL. Research opportunities at the school are also available for interested participants. In addition, participants will explore the quaint towns of coastal Maine, attend a group dinner in Booth's Bay, and stay at a local inn.

Participants pay a fee to cover program costs, lodging, and meals. Travel costs (9.5 hr drive or flight) must be paid separately.

### Application Timeline & Process

<b>Deadline to Apply</b>	May 15, 2025
<b>Interviews /Notification of Acceptance</b>	May/June 2025
<b>Pre-Travel Meetings</b>	September/October 2025
<b>Travel to Maine</b>	October 13-18, 2025 (in school 10/14 to 10/17)

**Eligibility** Open to all undergraduate and graduate teacher candidates. Best fit for junior or higher.

**Requirements** Must be a currently enrolled Buffalo State student.  
Must maintain good academic standing.

**To Apply** Submit the following materials (electronically) to James Cercone:  
- Completed Application Form  
- Completed Academic Reference Form  
- Typed Statement of Intent (in response to provided prompts)  
- Copy of grades and registration (transcript, Degree Works, Banner)

**To Participate** Selected participants must submit all final payments by the deadlines specified, complete required paperwork and processes, participate in the pre-travel meetings, and adhere to all travel guidelines.

# PDS Center for Teaching and Learning | Application Form

## Application Submission & Process

Submit complete form and attachments by email to:  
Pixita del Prado Hill | EELEL | [delprapm@buffalostate.edu](mailto:delprapm@buffalostate.edu)

Deadline to Apply: May 15, 2025

## Applicant Checklist

- Completed Application Form
- Completed Academic Reference Form
- Typed Statement of Intent
- Copy of grades and registration
- I am a Buffalo State teacher education student
- I am currently in good academic standing

## Supplemental Materials

**TRANSCRIPT** – Attach a copy of your most recent transcript (unofficial is acceptable), Degree Works printout, or Banner printout. The materials must show you are a registered Buffalo State student and indicate your GPA.

**ACADEMIC REFERENCE** – You must submit one academic reference. Ask a recent university instructor or academic advisor to complete the “Academic Reference Form.”

**STATEMENT OF INTENT** – Submit a typed response of no more than 500 words to the following prompts. Be thorough so reviewers can get a clear picture of your interest and intent with regards to this program.

- (1) What do you hope to gain from this program professionally/academically and personally? How you plan to integrate your experiences into your teaching?
- (2) What do you hope to bring to the program (our hosts, the children in the schools, your peers, etc.)?
- (3) What characteristics and experiences will help you be successful in this program? What are your interests? What are your strengths and challenges? How do you handle stressful situations?

## Emergency Contact

Name \_\_\_\_\_

Relationship to You \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone \_\_\_\_\_

## Personal Information

Name \_\_\_\_\_  
last

\_\_\_\_\_ first \_\_\_\_\_ middle

Date of Birth \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Pronoun \_\_\_\_\_  
mm/dd/yyyy

Mailing Address \_\_\_\_\_  
street

\_\_\_\_\_ city \_\_\_\_\_ state \_\_\_\_\_ zip

Buffalo State Email \_\_\_\_\_

Phone (mobile) \_\_\_\_\_

Racial/Ethnic Background \_\_\_\_\_

## Education Information

- Graduate Student  Undergraduate Student

Banner ID # \_\_\_\_\_

Department \_\_\_\_\_

Major \_\_\_\_\_

Academic Advisor \_\_\_\_\_

Expected Graduation Date \_\_\_\_\_

Cumulative GPA \_\_\_\_\_ Major GPA \_\_\_\_\_

## Travel & Homestay Information

TRANSPORTATION TO MAINE:

- I would like to drive or fly on my own.
- I would like to drive and can bring other participants.
- I would like to ride with another participant or leader.
- I have no transportation preference.

Are you allergic to animals? Yes No

Are you able to stay in a home that has pets? Yes No

Do you smoke? Yes No

Can you tolerate smoking? Yes No

Dietary Practices or Needs

\_\_\_\_\_

Allergies or Health Concerns

\_\_\_\_\_

# PDS Center for Teaching and Learning | Academic Reference Form

Email completed form or questions to the program coordinator:  
Pixita del Prado Hill ♦ EELEL ♦ [delprapm@buffalostate.edu](mailto:delprapm@buffalostate.edu)

Name \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

Institution \_\_\_\_\_ Department \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

Applicant's Name \_\_\_\_\_

How long and in what capacity have you known the applicant? \_\_\_\_\_

In comparison with other students you have known, please rate (circle one) the applicant on the following characteristics. In a separate letter or below, please elaborate on any of the characteristics, describe the student's strengths related to studying abroad, explain any of the student's weakness related to studying abroad, and/or provide additional comments regarding the applicant's potential for this program.

- |  |                                    |                               |                                  |                               |                                  |
|--|------------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|-------------------------------|----------------------------------|
| Motivation/Initiative  | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Integrity (commitment to high ethical standards)                           | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Problem Solving Skills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Common Sense and Good Judgment   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Interpersonal Skills (ability to work well with others)                    | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Coping Skills (ability to deal with stress, ambiguity, unusual situations) | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Writing Skills   | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Verbal Communication Skills  | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |
| Self-Concept (extent of self-esteem, positive self regard)                 | <input type="checkbox"/> Excellent | <input type="checkbox"/> Good | <input type="checkbox"/> Average | <input type="checkbox"/> Poor | <input type="checkbox"/> Unknown |

I  would  would not expect the student to be appropriate and considerate as a homestay participant

I  would  would not expect the student to be a positive addition to a travel group

Comments \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_