

The University of Texas at Austin  
GK-12 Teacher Application Form  
2009-2010 Academic Year

*Please print clearly, or type.*

**Contact Information:**

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Mailing Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

Home Address:

\_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

E-mail Address \_\_\_\_\_

**School Information:**

District: \_\_\_\_\_ School: \_\_\_\_\_

School Address: \_\_\_\_\_  
Street City State Zip

School Phone # \_\_\_\_\_

Ethnic breakdown of school population: \_\_\_\_\_

**Educational Background:**

Institution	Major	Degree	Hours (Est.)	Dates



**I certify that all general information given on this application is complete and correct. I also agree to the responsibilities of a GK-12 Teacher as described in this application, including participation in required meetings, seminars, and workshops.**

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**Signature of Applicant**

**Date**

*No person shall be excluded from participation, denied the benefits of, or be subject to discrimination under any program or activity sponsored or conducted by The University of Texas System or any of its component institutions, on any basis prohibited by applicable laws, including, but not limited to, race, color, national origin, religion, sex or handicap.*

REVIEW OF APPLICATIONS WILL BEGIN ON MARCH 20 AND CONTINUE UNTIL POSITIONS ARE FILLED.

TEACHERS MUST ATTEND THE GK-12 SUMMER INSTITUTE HELD JUNE 7-14, 2009.

The University of Texas at Austin  
GK-12 Teacher Application Process  
2009-2010 Academic Year

**GK-12 Teacher Application Process**

To apply now, please submit the following:

- completed and signed application form.
- letter of support from your school principal on school letterhead.  
*Note: School principal must state in their letter of reference how the teacher and Fellow selected for the program will be recognized at school meetings and functions.*
- Statement of Purpose (described below).

**Statement of Purpose**

*Please write a one-page statement of interest that summarizes your educational and career objectives and why you should be considered for the GK-12 program. As a guide, please address the questions listed below in your essay.*

1. Why do you want to participate in the GK-12 program?
2. Describe ways in which you would engage the GK-12 Fellows in your classroom?
3. What do you see as some of the challenges of effective K-12 science education?
4. What would you want a graduate student to gain by working in your classroom?
5. What qualities do you possess that would make you a good mentor?

FOR QUESTIONS CONCERNING ANY ASPECT OF THE GK-12 PROGRAM, CONTACT:

Port Aransas - Dr. Ken Dunton at 361-749-6744 (ken.dunton@mail.utexas.edu)  
Austin - Dr. Jay Banner at 512-471-5016 (banner@mail.utexas.edu)

**Send completed application and all supporting documentation to:**

<b>Port Aransas area:</b>	<b>Austin area:</b>
Dr. Ken Dunton	Dr. Jay Banner
Marine Science Institute	Environmental Science Institute
The University of Texas at Austin	The University of Texas at Austin
750 Channel View Drive	1 University Station C1100
Port Aransas, TX 78373	Austin, TX 78712
FAX: 361-749-6777	FAX: 512-471-9425

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The University of Texas at Austin  
GK-12 Program  
*Background Information & Program Requirements*

**Purpose of the GK-12 Program**

This program supports fellowships and associated training that will enable graduate students in the sciences, mathematics, engineering, and technology to serve as resources to teachers in K-12 schools, particularly at the middle school level, Grades 5 -8. It builds on existing programs involving The University of Texas at Austin and local school systems within Texas. The funded GK-12 project is based at the Environmental Science Institute (ESI) in Austin and at the UT Marine Science Institute (UTMSI) in Port Aransas and specifically targets partnerships with the Port Aransas, Flour Bluff and Austin ISDs. Fifth through eighth grade science teachers from all three districts are especially encouraged to apply. Fellows will serve as resources for teachers in science and mathematics instruction. Fellows will split their time between two teachers for lesson planning, classroom exercises, field trips, and regular meetings and workshops. Expected outcomes include improved communication and teaching skills for the fellows, enriched learning by K-12 students, professional development opportunities for K-12 teachers, and strengthened partnerships between institutions of higher education and local school districts. Fellowships are awarded for a 12-month period beginning 1 August (\$30,000 stipend). Benefits for Fellows include full tuition and fees, and comprehensive health and dental insurance. All GK-12 Teachers and Fellows are required to attend an early summer training and orientation workshop that precedes the start of the K-12 academic school year. This workshop will take place on both the and the University of Texas at Austin campus June 7-9 and the U.T. Marine Science Institute campus June 10-14. Housing for participants will be provided.

For further details on GK-12 program activities, see:

<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/gk12/summer.html> (Austin Fellows and Teachers) and  
<http://gk12.utmsi.utexas.edu> (Port Aransas and Flour Bluff Fellows and Teachers).

**Related K-12 Outreach Programs**

Marine Science Institute (Port Aransas)

- Study of Arctic Change  
<http://146.6.184.140/outreach/public-lectures/public-lecture-series.html>
- Schweppe Lecture Series  
<http://146.6.184.140/outreach/public-lectures/schweppe-public-lecture-series.html>
- UTMSI Marine Education  
<http://www.utmsi.utexas.edu/outreach.html>

Environmental Science Institute (Austin)

- Hot Science Cool Talks Outreach Lecture Series  
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/lectures.html>
- The Edwards Aquifer  
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/groundwater/index.php>  
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/outreach/caves/index.php>
- Climate Change  
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/research/climate.html>
- Sustainability  
<http://www.esi.utexas.edu/research/sustainability.html>

## **GK-12 Project Goals**

National Science Foundation: To develop partnerships between K-12 schools and universities with Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics (STEM) graduate students and upper-level undergraduates working with teacher colleagues to improve STEM education at the K-12 level.

The University of Texas at Austin: To promote the academic and professional development of K-12 and university level participants by building long-term partnerships between K-12 school districts and University of Texas researchers in Sciences, Technology, Engineering, or Mathematics (STEM.)

The primary objectives of our GK-12 project are

- 1) to help teachers adopt diverse and innovative field and inquiry-based teaching strategies to promote student learning, especially with underrepresented groups, within the framework of state and national curriculum standards,
- 2) to build long-lasting partnerships between K-12 teachers and academic researchers and to enhance professional development through direct contact with UT scientists,
- 3) to deliver new content in the classroom that will improve student understanding of science and mathematics while encouraging students to consider careers in STEM disciplines, and
- 4) to develop Fellows into scientists with improved communication and pedagogical skills, an awareness of science education standards, and the desire and ability to transmit scientific methods and knowledge to students, teachers, and the public.

## **Thematic Focus**

“Watersheds and Sustainability: Tracing a Drop of Water Inland to the Coast”

Our GK-12 project will use watersheds that extend from central Texas to the mid-Texas Gulf Coast as organizing units for environmental science in teaching the STEM disciplines. We anticipate broad educational opportunities beyond this focus, and expect graduate fellows will come from disciplines as diverse as marine science, geoscience, biology, geography, chemistry, civil engineering, and community/regional planning.

## **Some Basic Requirements for GK-12 Teachers**

- Understand and appreciate the goals and objectives of this program.
- Work with GK-12 Fellows in your classroom to develop activities related to subject areas in your teaching discipline.
- Hold weekly 30 minute conferences with your GK-12 Fellow to exchange ideas and plan future lesson activities based on your written classroom/subject syllabus.
- Provide written feedback on a weekly basis on jointly prepared and delivered Fellow-teacher lessons for classroom or field trip activities.
- Provide periodic verbal and written support/feedback to your Fellow on classroom instruction, management techniques, and teaching effectiveness.
- Attend professional development and/or GK-12 workshops (two/academic year) as directed by the component PI (Dunton or Banner).
- Develop an after school program with other GK-12 teachers and Fellows in your school that features GK-12 classroom activities to parents.
- Participate in short pre-or post evening workshops during the academic school year that are focused on public lectures or presentations delivered by visiting scientists as part of the Schweppe Lecture Series (UTMSI), the Outreach Lecture Series (ESI), or other special activity as directed by the component PI.
- Participate in monthly meetings outside the school day for planning of activities,

- communication with PI's, and exchange of ideas and experiences.
- Work with your Fellow to create or significantly modify for Internet dissemination two learning activities and produce written lesson plans associated with each using a learning model designed for this program that is aligned with TEKS and TAKS.
  - Assist in the collection of data on student attitudes and performance to evaluate the success of this program.
  - Participate in a one-day annual GK-12 colloquium in June (Port Aransas or Austin).
  - Attend an early summer training and orientation workshop that precedes the start of the K-12 academic year (held in Austin and/or Port Aransas).
  - Deliver joint presentations with your Fellow at conferences, workshops or symposia on your GK-12 related activities and experiences (travel expenses are provided for such activities).
  - Present GK-12 information to at least one group of colleagues and professionals.

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