

# From Nest to Classroom

The Jayhawk Flight Plan Through Your Final Teaching Experiences



# The Jayhawk Flight Plan



The Nest represents your coursework preparation, protection, and potential – skills are formed, confidence is built, and identity as an educator takes shape.



The classroom represents purpose, impact, and leadership.



Student teaching is not a single destination, but a guided flight with multiple connecting flights – designed to provide distinct experiences, broaden perspectives, and ensure every Jayhawk educator is ready to soar independently to their final destination.



# TSA Pre-Check

- Overall minimum GPA 2.75
- All pre-requisite coursework completed
- Education courses completed with C- or higher
- Incomplete grades must be resolved prior to placement





# Planning Your Journey

A strong flight plan includes exposure to different routes and conditions.

In the same way, KU designs placements so students experience a variety of school environments, including different demographics, schools, and districts, resulting in multiple destinations that strengthen your readiness for the classroom.

[Click here](#) to review flight policies – (Student Teaching Handbook)



# Navigation Itinerary

## Elementary Education

- Fall Placement – Student Teaching (10 weeks)
  - Spring Placement – Student Teaching (14 weeks)
  - One primary grades placement (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
  - One intermediate grades placement (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)
  - One Crimson Destination
  - One Blue Destination
- Unless choosing a Jayhawk Destination for at least one semester



# Navigation Itinerary

## Elementary Education Unified

### Fall Placement

- One primary grades OR (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)
- One intermediate grades (3<sup>rd</sup>-6<sup>th</sup>)

### Spring Placement

- Elementary Special Education

- One Crimson Destination
- One Blue Destination

Unless choosing a Jayhawk Destination for at least one semester



The background of the slide is a photograph of a rural landscape at sunset. The sky is a warm orange-yellow, and the sun is low on the horizon, creating a soft glow over the scene. The landscape consists of rolling hills covered in dry, golden-brown grass. A narrow, winding path or stream cuts through the grass, leading the eye from the foreground into the distance. The overall mood is peaceful and serene.

# Navigation Itinerary

## Unified Early Childhood

### Fall Placement

- Primary grades (K-2<sup>nd</sup>)

### Spring Placement

- Pre-K early childhood with special education
- One Crimson, Blue, or Jayhawk Destination
- One Early Childhood Center Destination



# Navigation Itinerary

## Secondary Education

- Fall Placement – Advanced Teaching Practicum (50 hours)
  - Fall/Spring Placement – Student Teaching
  - One middle school placement (6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>)
  - One high school placement (9–12<sup>th</sup>)
  - One Crimson Destination
  - One Blue Destination
- Unless choosing a Jayhawk Destination for at least one semester



# Navigation Itinerary

STEM Teach KU

- Fall or Spring Placement – Student Teaching
- Middle school placement (6<sup>th</sup>–8<sup>th</sup>) OR High school placement (9–12<sup>th</sup>)
- One Crimson, Blue, or Jayhawk Destination



# Navigation Itinerary

Visual Art, Music, Physical Education

- Fall or Spring Placement – Student Teaching
  - One Elementary school placement (K-5<sup>th</sup>) AND
  - One Middle school placement (6<sup>th</sup>-8<sup>th</sup>) OR
  - One High school placement (9-12<sup>th</sup>)
  - One Crimson Destination
  - One Blue Destination
- Unless choosing a Jayhawk Destination for at least one semester



# Destinations

## Crimson

Auburn-Washburn  
Baldwin City  
Basehor-Linwood  
Blue Valley  
De Soto  
Eudora  
Fort Leavenworth  
Gardner-Edgerton  
Kansas City Catholic Diocese  
Lansing  
Lawrence  
Olathe  
Piper-Kansas City  
Seaman  
Shawnee Heights  
Shawnee Mission  
Spring Hill

## Blue

Bonner Springs - Edwardsville  
Kansas City  
Leavenworth  
McLouth  
Oskaloosa  
Ottawa  
Perry  
Santa Fe Trail  
Tonganoxie  
Topeka  
Turner-Kansas City

## Jayhawk

Bonner Springs - Edwardsville  
De Soto  
Kansas City  
Lawrence  
Shawnee Mission  
Topeka  
Turner-Kansas City

All connecting destinations are within a 50-mile radius of  
our Lawrence campus

Reliable transportation is your responsibility and a  
requirement to reach your destination

# Jayhawk Destinations – Travel Buddies

Traveling with a group provides shared experiences, support, and built-in problem solving since traveling to the same destination.

Occasionally trips (placements) are chosen not for comfort, but for growth and reflection.

These destinations are committed to addressing academic, language, and socio-economic challenges. These are purpose driven placements that build cultural competence.

Bonner Springs – Edwardsville  
De Soto  
Kansas City  
Lawrence  
Shawnee Mission  
Topeka  
Turner-Kansas City

Whether you choose to travel solo or with a group, both paths lead to the same destination—a variety of experiences. The Jayhawk Destinations offer the journey with companions and are available for one or two semesters but not necessarily the same destination.



# Restricted Zones

- Destinations that family are currently visiting (working or attending)
- Destinations that you have previously visited (personally attended)
- Reaching out to a destination to arrange your stay (placement)

Travel to the same city is permissible but a different hotel is required  
(Same district but not the same school)

# Booking Windows

- Flights must be booked during designated windows and a request submitted for each requested destination (placement)

Program	Booking Request(s)
Elementary, EEU, UEC	2 Requests (Fall, Spring)
Secondary	2 Requests (Fall, Fall or Fall, Spring)
STEM Teach	1 Request (Fall or Spring)
Physical Education, Art, Music	1 Request (Fall or Spring)

- Fall flight requests – Send to travel agent by submitting in ELC by February 15
- Spring flight requests – Send to travel agent by submitting in ELC by August 15
- Airlines (districts) respond as they work through their booking process; Flight confirmation and seat assignments are sent once available through the ELC platform



# Booking Requests

- Experiential Learning Cloud (ELC) serves as your digital flight hub, keeping everyone connected, informed, and on course.
- Log-in instructions will be sent to your KU email
- Once logged in, complete the following:
  - Pre-Tasks
    - Booking Request (Request/Preference Form) – Selecting your destination choices
    - Agreement Form – Agreeing to flight terms and conditions (program dispositions)

# Security Screening Checklist

Clearance Completed for  
Fall Requests – April 15  
Spring Requests – June 15

- Validity Background Check
- Health Clearance
  - Health Assessment
  - Tuberculosis Test
- Hazard Awareness Screening
  - Bloodborne Pathogen
- Risk Coverage Clearance
  - Professional Liability Insurance
- Academic Clearance



# Security Screening Validity Background Check

- All travelers must clear security before boarding
- Background check required to ensure a safe learning environment
- Complete screening via Validity (\$37 fee)
  - [Click here](#) for instructions
- Upload results to ELC for clearance

# Security Screening Health Clearance

- Every traveler must be cleared for safe flight
- HEALTH ASSESSMENT
  - Health assessment confirms you are fit to work safely with students
  - Provider verifies no condition that would impact student health or safety
- TUBERCULOSIS TEST
  - Once test is administered, you will return in 48 hours for the results
- [Click here](#) for a copy of the form
- Upload results to ELC for clearance



# Hazard Awareness Screening Bloodborne Pathogen

- All travelers must be trained to respond to in-flight hazards
- Bloodborne pathogen training prepares you to respond safely to potential exposure
- [Click here](#) for directions and to enroll in the course
- Upload certificate of completion to ELC

# Security Screening Risk Coverage Clearance

- Every flight requires proper insurance before takeoff
- Professional liability coverage protects you in the event of an in-flight (classroom) incident
- One-million-dollar coverage is required for boarding
- If utilizing National Educators Association (KNEA)
  - [Click here](#) to sign up after APRIL 1, 2026 for the 2026-2027 academic year
  - Choose Aspiring Educator
- Upload proof to ELC



# Security Screening Academic Clearance

- No flight departs without final clearance from tower approval
- Academic Approval Form – [click here](#) to review with your advisor
  - Verifies eligibility for takeoff
  - Confirms coursework, GPA, and program requirements are met
- Required for final boarding authorization – upload to ELC

# Flight Confirmation & Seat Assignment

- Airlines (districts) respond as they work through their booking process; Flight confirmation and seat assignments are sent once available through the ELC platform
- Expect Confirmation in ELC
  - Fall Requests – May 15
  - Spring Requests – December 15



# Flight Safety & Expectations

- Professional image sets the tone for the journey
- Flight Crew Appearance – Attire
  - Dress professional
- Online Appearance – Social Media Accounts
  - Build trust and credibility
- Additional Flight Safety and Expectations reviewed in late April
  - Date forthcoming

# Ready for Takeoff

- Takeoff for destinations:
  - Student Teaching – district start date for teachers in August/January
  - Advanced Teaching Practicum – after Labor Day



# Flight Crew

- Clinical Supervisor (mentor teacher)
- University Supervisor (KU representative)
- Both provide ongoing feedback, evaluation, and guidance

# Travel Agent Contact Information

Jill McKay  
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University of Kansas  
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785.864.6590



# Congratulations, Jayhawks!



The final phase of your journey—  
from nest to classroom



Buckle up – Enjoy and trust  
the flight plan, remain  
flexible, and prepare to soar  
to your final teaching  
destination (career).



## Rock Chalk!