

# TAKING THE NEXT STEP

## Ten Ways to MAXIMIZE Your Student Teaching Experience

Presented by

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**1. Look and sound like the teacher you want to be.**

- How do we look?
- How do we sound?
- Who do we emulate?

**2. Instead of wondering what you hope to get from this experience, wonder what you hope to give.**

- The Four “Be’s”
- Take pride in the team’s achievements, rather than personal ones.

**3. Ask yourself, “If you were a mentor, what would you expect from a student teacher?”**

- Punctuality
- Appropriateness of speech
- Social media presence
- Content knowledge
- Pacing and rehearsal planning
- Roles as a student teacher

**4. Don’t be afraid to ask, “Is there anything else I can do?”**

**5. Leave the impression that you are irreplaceable.**

- Become an indispensable part of the team.
- Hope that your mentor teacher will want to hire you or work on your behalf to help you find employment.

**6. Remember that you carry the name of your alma mater everywhere you go.**

- Regardless of your abilities as a teacher, people will always inquire into where you went to school.
- Your work defines the value for the degree you are earning/have earned.

**7. Strive to find the balance between complete reliance on your mentors and self-sufficiency.**

- Be inquisitive, but limit your “neediness.”
- Gauge the frequency (and the moment) you ask your mentor teacher about feedback.
- Learn how to make decisions as a professional.

**8. “If you’re not making mistakes, you’re not doing anything. I’m positive a doer makes mistakes.”**

**John Wooden**

- Mistakes and failures, success and achievement = it’s all experience.
- Do not proceed through your early career avoiding mistakes at all costs – this can lead to insecurity and trepidation.

**9. Consider that the music world is very small.**

- What would your peers and colleagues say about you in the classroom? When you are out socially? As a performer and musician?
- What kind of recommendation would you get from your mentor teacher?

**10. Practice positive interactions with both students and mentors.**

- The only headlines you want mentioning your name are ones referring to your professional successes, not your inappropriate interactions with students or mentor teachers.
- There is a line between right and wrong - be way on the side of right.

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If you have questions, write them here or e-mail Brett A. Richardson at [richabre@indiana.edu](mailto:richabre@indiana.edu).