

T'AI CHI CHIH® TEACHER PREP COACHES

Role and Required Skills

Becoming a Teacher Prep Coach is a new opportunity for experienced T'ai Chi Chih (TCC) teachers who are passionate about helping prepare teacher candidates for accreditation. We envision that Teacher Prep Coaches will be a resource in our community to provide consistent, reliable support for TCC teacher candidates. Over the years, we have noted that not all candidates arrive at the accreditation course with enough preparation to get the most out of the course. We recognize that in some cases, a candidate's First Referring Teacher does not have the time, experience or interest in preparing their student for accreditation. In this case, the candidate's teacher may ask, or a Teacher Trainer may suggest, that a Teacher Prep Coach serve as the First and/or Second Referring Teacher.

If you are an experienced teacher who has successfully prepared and demonstrated expertise in preparing candidates for accreditation and are willing to spend one-on-one time to offer your skill and expertise to our community, consider becoming a Teacher Prep Coach. It is our hope that marshaling resources that already exist in our community will result in a more enjoyable and productive teacher accreditation experience and ultimately lead to more teachers actively teaching.

All First and Second Referring Teachers will be provided with a pre-Intensive and post-Intensive suggested curriculum, which they will tailor to the needs of the candidate. Teacher Prep Coaches will make individual arrangements with the candidate who engages their coaching services regarding the time, place, number and duration of meetings, and compensation. They agree to work one-on-one with the candidate, in person or via Zoom, and to give honest and helpful feedback and suggestions regarding the candidate's progress and readiness to be assessed for accreditation. They agree to proactively communicate and consult with the Teacher Trainers and any other teachers preparing the candidate for accreditation so that the candidate is not given conflicting guidance about standards and expectations. All Referring Teachers agree not to recommend a student for accreditation unless the basics of the curriculum are met.

Teacher Prep Coach Qualifications:

- Experienced teacher of several years with diverse teaching skills (for example: ability to teach mirroring; seated practice; in various configurations ((in rows or in a circle)), as well as experience teaching beginning, intermediate, advanced, mixed-level and ongoing classes).
- Must have successfully helped prepare at least five students for accreditation within the past ten years.

- Ability to communicate clearly, compassionately, and honestly with students and teachers.
- Willingness to work with Teacher Trainers and other teachers preparing the candidate.
- Must have attended at least one Intensive and audited one Teacher Accreditation Course within the past five years.
- Experience and comfort teaching and giving feedback via Zoom

If you feel you meet most of the qualifications above, but not all of them, and are still interested in applying, please call one of the Teacher Trainers to discuss your interest.

Responsibilities of a Teacher Prep Coach:

- Attend quarterly meetings on Zoom with other Teacher Prep Coaches to discuss issues that come up during the coaching process.
- Willingness to communicate with the Teacher Trainers and hosts of the Intensive and Accreditation course the candidate attends, before, during, and after attendance.
- Must proactively seek guidance and assistance from a Teacher Trainer if the coaching relationship is not working out.
- Must attend at least one Intensive and audit at least one Teacher Accreditation Course every five years.
- Must attend Teacher Conference at least once every three years.
- Must pursue opportunities to contribute to and to stay informed of community currents by reading and writing for the Vital Force Journal and regularly attending some combination of TCC events such as retreats, workshops, TCC classes led by other experienced TCC teachers (in person or via Zoom), and monthly practices and discussions led by the TCC Guide.
- Each year, Teacher Prep Coaches will be asked to self-assess whether they have met the requirements and responsibilities set forth above.

Prepared by Marie Dotts, Lesley Nell and Lisa Otero.

Endorsed by TCC Teacher Trainers Sandy McAlister, Pam Towne, Daniel Pienciak and April Leffler, June 2025

To be reviewed annually by the Teacher Trainers with input from the teacher community.

**For T'ai Chi Chih Teachers who enjoy preparing candidates for Teacher Accreditation, the Trainers welcome your application to become a "Teacher Prep Coach." All who are interested, please apply!
Application link below:**

<https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScrtVvsncnvqP3WoRAgVy7Dz3Wb9eRRkFHRNL3WxocbBTwOcQ/viewform?usp=header>