

BACKWARDS Design Institute for Teacher Educators

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If you are responsible for designing a course inside a teacher education program—or even an entire program—you should join us for the Backwards Design Institute for Teacher Educators. In this focused, one-and-a-half-day event, we will apply the tenets of backwards design to teacher education to explore the following question:

How do we as teacher educators develop a clear, shared vision of what teacher candidates will learn to do in our programs and how do we use that vision to shape our courses?

What to expect at the Backwards Design Institute for Teacher Educators:

- + Examples of how other fields of professional education have unpacked practice for the purpose of novice learning
- + Examples of decomposed teaching practices
- + Engaging tasks in which participants will unpack the teaching practices that are the focus of their course or program, and receive immediate feedback
- + Opportunities to discuss challenges in specifying teaching practice and designing effective teacher education programs with colleagues working across states, communities, and program formats

Leave the Backwards Design Institute with:



Tools and Strategies for Making Teaching Learnable

Learn concrete steps for unpacking teaching into learnable parts.



Field Tasks

Create or improve at least two scaffolded field tasks (or the equivalent) that you or your colleagues can use in your own teacher education program.



A Certificate

Walk away with a digital, printable document that certifies you as a graduate of the Backwards Design for Teacher Educators and identifies the dates during which you participated.

TeachingWorks has led the field in the work of specifying teaching practice for more than a decade. In the Institute, expert facilitators will provide provocative tasks, examples, and support. Participants should come ready to think hard about what teacher candidates need to learn, and learn to do, in order to teach.

July 30–31, 2026

Marsal Family School of Education,
University of Michigan