The moment you walk into Nikki Manning’s first grade classroom, you get the feeling something exciting is going to happen. Nikki teaches at Benvenue Elementary School in Rocky Mount, NC. She landed a job with Nash-Rocky Mount Schools immediately after graduating from East Carolina University in December, 2012 and she says she loves the classroom. Her kids love her too! According to Denise, one of the first graders I met while visiting the school, “Ms. Manning makes us so happy! She is the best teacher I’ve ever had.”

Nikki’s mother cared for children in her home while Nikki was young. Many of her clients were teachers which gave Nikki the opportunity to help out in classrooms at an early age. While completing an internship in high school, she decided that she, too, wanted to be a teacher. She found SECU Partnership East to be exactly what she needed to complete her degree while working two jobs. Nikki says attending Nash Community College and then completing junior and senior coursework at ECU gave her the flexibility she needed to pursue her dream of teaching. “I highly recommend Partnership East to everyone I can. It is truly a great program and I feel that it more than prepared me as an educator. The great instructors, advisors, and supervisors surely made the process that much more enjoyable, too!”
BECOME A TEACHER! Complete an ECU Teaching Degree through SECU Partnership East (PE)

1. Apply to a NC Community College and complete the general education requirements.
2. Apply for Financial Aid at the community college.
3. Register for community college courses. Find a checklist at www.ecu.edu/PE
4. Schedule an appointment with a SECU Partnership East Coordinator.
5. Take the Praxis-CORE in reading, writing, and math in the sophomore year (required to apply to program).
6. Apply to SECU Partnership East to secure acceptance into the program.

REQUIREMENTS FOR ADMISSION TO ECU SECU PARTNERSHIP EAST (PE)

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PE Application Deadlines:
*January 15 prior to summer for SPED
*February 15 prior to fall for ELEM and MIDG

7. Once program acceptance is secured, apply for transfer admission to East Carolina University:
   - Summer 2 start term for full-time elementary and part-time special education programs
   - Fall start term for part-time elementary and middle grades programs

In order to take courses through PE, students must be enrolled in ECU. Create your Pirate Port Account
to track your admission status and apply online at www.ecu.edu/admissions.

8. Apply for financial aid at ECU.

Praxis Test Requirement

The Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators series includes three tests that measure the abilities, content knowledge and critical thinking skills of teacher candidates in the areas of reading, writing and mathematics.

Students interested in becoming teachers must present scores from a prerequisite general knowledge test such as the Praxis Core when applying to SECU Partnership East and before beginning Upper Division coursework. Passing scores for Praxis Core or qualifying SAT and ACT scores may be submitted to meet testing requirements. Scores from the previous version of the Praxis, Praxis I (PPST), will be accepted if taken prior to June 30, 2014.

Students may take the Praxis Core test at computer testing centers around the state. Available testing windows and locations along with registration can be found on the Educational Testing Service (ETS) website at www.ets.org. Study guides and sample tests are also provided by ETS. Allow 3-6 weeks to receive scores.

Please contact the PE coordinator in your area for more information.

Funding Your Education...A Pirate’s Treasure

Students that participate in select SECU Partnership East cohorts may be eligible to receive up to $3,800 of financial support during their Senior Year Internship semesters.
- Senior I Semester: $1,000 of Tuition Support
- Senior II Semester: Tuition Support + Student Stipend = $2,800

Additionally, you may be eligible for financial aid in the form of grants, scholarships, loans, or employee assistance programs. It is never too late to learn about financial aid. There is a free course online called, Financial Literacy 101 (https://www.cfnc.org/paying/financial_literacy.jsp). This course may be useful in helping you understand various forms of financial aid and application procedures.

All college students should complete a FAFSA, Free Application for Federal Student Aid, online at www.fafsa.gov. Even if you do not qualify for federal aid such as a Pell Grant; other types of financial aid may be available but require documentation of a completed FAFSA.

For additional resources to fund your education, visit the websites below:
2. College Foundation of North Carolina: http://www.cfnc.org or call 1-888-866-2362
   a. Forgivable Education Loans for Services
   b. NC Community College Grant and Loan Program
   c. Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program
3. Military Financial Assistance
   a. Tuition Assistance: http://www.military.com/education/content/money-for-school/tuition-assistance-ta-program-overview.html