

TRANSITIONING FROM TEACHING CERTIFICATE PART 1, UNIT 3, TO PART 2, UNIT 5

After completing Part 1 of the Teaching Certificate, the next stage in the RSCDS Teaching Certificate training is to develop teaching skills by teaching real classes, keeping track of those lessons to compile the Record of Teaching Practice for Unit 4 and preparing to take Unit 5. It is on-the-job training during which new teachers analyse their own work, identify where they need further development, and grow.

How is Unit 5 different? For the Unit 3 examination, candidates teach one assigned step and 16 bars of dancing. For Unit 5, candidates are assigned a dance drawn from the Unit 5 Assignment Bank and are given more time to teach it. They rely on their experience and on skills learned in the Unit 5 course to decide for themselves the priorities for steps, formations, and transitions to be taught, and which rhythm should be used. Good observation and dance analysis skills and a stronger response to the dancers is needed. The target audience is meant to be intermediate dancers, not beginners, so polishing and improving a step, rather than teaching it as if unknown, is expected. The main formations should be taught, but others only reviewed. Other skills, such as rotating couples in the set, demonstrating, use of music, and voice, are comparable.

To begin this transition as soon as possible, candidates should seek out and work with a mentor of their choice who will help them develop their teaching skills in real classes over the next year or so. [Mentors](#) should be experienced teachers who can give advice and suggestions when their help is requested, and who will observe and review the candidate's Unit 4 work. The candidate prepares the Record of Teaching Practice (see [X4-05, Guidelines for Preparation of the Record of Teaching Practice](#)), which their mentor reviews before it is submitted to the RSCDS. With technology, a mentor can be anywhere in the world! The RSCDS can help candidates find a mentor if they do not have someone locally.

Often, there is not enough time in courses for Unit 3 to cover preparation for anything but the Unit 3 assignments. Candidates should seek guidance from their mentor and from helpful resources on the RSCDS web site for teachers.

Suggestions:

- On the RSCDS page for the [Teaching Certificate](#), look under “Forms and Information--General Information for all Units” for tutorials such as “[Guidance Notes for TC Candidates](#)” and “[Teaching Scottish Country Dancing – Guidelines.](#)”
- Read ALL of the Unit 4 and 5 documentation available on the RSCDS website, especially submission forms and guidelines for preparing Unit 4.
- Read the [Syllabus](#) sections on Unit 4 and Unit 5.
- Teach classes. If appropriate for those classes, read, analyse, and teach dances in the current Unit 5 [Assignment Bank](#).
- Read the document on Support for New Teachers.