

What do We Know about Preservice Physical Education Teacher Preparation via the Teaching Methods Courses?

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Although teaching methods courses have been used to train preservice physical education teachers (PPETs) in the US for more than two decades, it is unclear how methods courses are taught and what PPETs actually learn in these courses. The role of such courses in the quality of PPETs is also unclear. The purpose of the round table discussion is to review the existing literature on the topic and provide future directions concerning teaching the methods courses. A literature search using PubMed, Google Scholar, Web of Science, and EBSCOhost databases was conducted to identify pertinent articles. The following keywords were selected: pre-service teacher preparation in physical education, and physical education teacher education, method course, teaching methods course, physical education teaching methods course, elementary teaching methods course, and secondary teaching methods course. A total of 21 articles were selected for review. It was found that only a handful of research studies were found on the topic with about 62% of the existing studies focusing on elementary teaching methods courses. The connection between teaching methods courses and student teaching has not been established as no studies have examined this matter. More research on teaching methods courses is needed in the future to strengthen the preparation of PPETS.