

## GTEP: Frequently Asked Questions

### **When does GTEP start?**

GTEP starts once a year in the summer. Both the full-time and part-time options begin in mid-July.

### **When is the Admissions deadline?**

The next application deadline is December 1, 2010 for a Summer 2011 start.

### **Is it possible to meet with a GTEP faculty advisor?**

Potential applicants should first attend a GTEP Group Advising session. Sessions are offered multiple times each week during the term. The current schedule can be found at <http://www.pdx.edu/education/gse-advising> . Once an applicant has attended a group advising session, they can schedule an appointment with a GTEP faculty member by contacting the Graduate School of Education Receptionist at 503-725-4588.

### **What is the application process?**

An applicant must apply to **both** PSU's Graduate Division and the Graduate Teacher Education Program in the Graduate School of Education. See <http://www.pdx.edu/admissions/how-apply-graduate> for instructions about applying to PSU. The GTEP application is completed and submitted online. See <http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-admissions> for instructions on how to access the online GTEP application.

### **Can an applicant submit a paper application for GTEP?**

No, the online application is the only option. The online application for Summer 2011 GTEP will be accessible in late June, 2010.

## **PREREQUISITES**

### **What courses will substitute for the Portland State University prerequisites for Early Childhood, Elementary, Middle and Secondary (High School) level license?**

For a complete list of preapproved prerequisites, go to <http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites>.

### **What is the process for substituting courses taken previously at other institutions?**

Check the list of preapproved prerequisites (link above). If a student has taken a course that is not on this list but that may include equivalent content, a waiver process is in place. The instructions, department contacts, and form can be found at <http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites>. The form, along with supporting materials, is submitted to the Academic Department. For example, if the waiver is for PSY 311, Human Department, the waiver materials are sent to the Psychology Department. An applicant should initiate this process at least four weeks prior to the December 1 application deadline.

### **Is it possible to meet the prerequisite requirements by taking a test?**

The Math, Music, and Psychology Departments have testing options for meeting the prerequisites requirements. Please see the individual department websites and/or contact the departments for more detailed information.

## **TESTING**

### **What tests are required for the GTEP program?**

All applicants are required to submit passing scores on **basic skills tests** and **content area test(s)**. To meet the basic skills test requirements, students may take either the PPST (offered by Praxis) or the CBEST. These are standardized tests that measure reading, writing and math skills.

All applicants must take a second test in their specialty area offered by Praxis:

Those applicants pursuing Early Childhood, Elementary, or Middle Level authorizations must take the ORELA (Multiple Subjects) There are two sections of the ORELA; Content Knowledge and Content Area Exercises. Both sections must be completed. Registration is online at [www.orela.nesinc.com](http://www.orela.nesinc.com) .

Those applicants pursuing Middle Level or High School authorizations must take a specialty area exam relative to the subject they intend to teach. The list of Oregon required tests offered by Praxis can be found at [www.ets.org/praxis](http://www.ets.org/praxis) .

**NOTE:** To meet admissions qualifications for a Middle Level authorization, applicants must take and pass **three** tests: PPST or CBEST; ORELA, and PRAXIS.

## **COMPLETION OF REQUIREMENTS**

**If the prerequisites and tests are not completed before the application deadline, will an applicant still be considered for admission?**

Applications that are complete by the December 1<sup>st</sup> deadline provide substantial evidence of an applicant's qualifications and are almost always the strongest applications. The Admissions Committee reviews applications and makes admissions decisions based on the evidence that has been submitted. If an application is incomplete, it is very important that applicants indicate specific information regarding when and where the courses will be completed and dates that the tests will be taken. Providing an unofficial transcript showing that the applicant has registered for a course and a copy of the test registration confirmation serve as evidence that the applicant has a plan for completing admissions requirements. It is still the applicant's responsibility to provide transcripts with grades and passing test scores upon completion of the requirements. When an applicant is admitted with an incomplete file, they are 'admitted with conditions' and all of those conditions must be met before the program starts. **Evidence of all prerequisites and passing test scores must be received by GTEP no later than June 30, 2010 in order to be eligible to begin the program July 19, 2011.**

## **GPA**

**Will applicants with a GPA of less than 3.0 be considered for admission?**

If an applicant's overall GPA is below 3.0, they may still be considered for admission into the program if: a) grades in program prerequisites and/or content area courses are 3.0 or above; and b) the rest of their application is especially strong. When an applicant's overall GPA is below 2.75, they are not eligible for regular admission to graduate studies in the university and do not qualify for GTEP.

## **AFTER APPLYING**

**Is it possible to work while completing the Graduate Teacher Education Program?**

Students are discouraged from working while completing the full-time program. If any arrangements for work are made, students must have a very flexible schedule with limited hours during week. Students that wish to work while pursuing their initial teaching license can apply for either the Elementary or Secondary Part Time GTEP.

**After applying to the program when can applicants expect to find out about their acceptance to the program?**

Applicants can expect final notification regarding their acceptance into the program within approximately eight weeks of the application deadline.

**COMPLETING THE MASTER OF EDUCATION**

**What is required for completing the Masters of Education?**

The 45-credit Master of Education degree is a graduate degree option for students who have completed GTEP. It consists of: all GTEP coursework except Student Teaching I and Student Teaching II; CI 563, Teacher As Researcher; and 1-6 elective credits, depending on a teacher candidate's Program of Study in GTEP. Teacher candidates must meet with their advisor to determine the specific elective courses and number of elective credits needed. NOTE: CI 563 Teacher as Researcher is taken after completion of GTEP.

**Is it possible to complete the M.Ed. requirements before completing the GTEP?**

For teacher candidates in full-time GTEP, it is not possible, since the Program of Study involves 56-61 credits over the course of 4 terms. It may be possible to complete the elective credits during part-time GTEP with the approval of the cohort leader (advisor) and ultimately, the Department Chair and the Office of Graduate Studies. GTEP students must meet with their advisor to determine the specific elective courses and number of elective credits needed. NOTE: Elective credits must be at the graduate level (500 level or above, but not 808) and taken for a letter grade. The Teacher as Researcher course may not be taken prior to the completion of GTEP.

**Is it possible to complete the M.Ed. requirements before applying for the GTEP?**

It is not advisable to take elective credits prior to application, because without the advice from a program advisor, they may not qualify as part of the M.Ed. Program of Study.