

# Pre-Teacher Elementary Education

College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center  
M305 Smith Memorial Student Union, (503) 725-3822  
**PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY**

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**The Graduate Teacher Education Program (GTEP)** is designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college and wish to receive their Initial Teaching License through completion of the Graduate School of Education's 12 month, graduate-level professional training program. GTEP also offers a 8 term part-time licensure program. Successful completion of the GTEP qualifies an individual to teach in two of the following authorization areas:

**Early Childhood**, age 3 to grade 4, and **Elementary**, grade 3 to grade 8; **OR**  
**Elementary**, grade 3 to grade 8, and **Middle School**, grade 5 to grade 9.

**Dual Endorsement:** The PSU Graduate School of Education also offers Oregon's only Dual Endorsement Program in Elementary & Special Education. Further information about the program can be found at: <http://www.pdx.edu/sped/inclusive-educators-program>

**All students interested in GTEP should attend one of the School of Education's frequently offered group information sessions and obtain an information packet available in 204 ED. Call (503)725-4619 for days and times of information sessions or see [www.pdx.edu/education](http://www.pdx.edu/education)**

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## **GTEP Admission Requirements:**

1) Complete the following pre-requisite courses:

**ART 312** (4 credits) - Art in the Elementary School

**LIB 428** (3 credits) – Children's Literature (ED 112 at PCC or ENG 221 at MHCC)

**MTH 211, 212 & 213** (12 credits) - Foundations of Elementary Math

**MUS 381** (4 credits) - Music Fundamentals

**PSY 311** (4 credits) - Human Development (PSY 215 at PCC/ PSY 237 at MHCC)

**(Please note** that the strongest candidates will have completed these courses prior to the December 1 application deadline. All pre-requisite courses must earn a B- or better. Completion of the above requirements does not guarantee admission to the School of Education as enrollments are limited and competitive.)

The following courses are not required but strongly recommended:

**CI 432** (3 credits) - Computer Applications for the Classroom

**ED 420** (4 credits) - Introduction to Education

2) Have at least a 3.0 GPA (cumulative or graduate-level)

3) Have experience working with children in educational or social service agencies-

Preparing to be a teacher requires more than your academic course work. You should build solid experience, volunteer or otherwise, with the age group you wish to teach. While applicants tend to have a variety of experiences including day care, coaching, serving as a camp counselor, etc. you should have some experience in an elementary classroom. The strongest candidates will have had some exposure to the full age range in the early childhood and elementary authorization levels. Solid recommendations from teachers and administrators who have observed you interacting with young people are a very important part of your application.

There are a number of local volunteer groups that can assist you in finding volunteer opportunities with children including **Oregon Volunteers, Hands on Portland, Volunteer Match, and Network for Good**. Complete information can be found on their websites. You can also work with individual schools as most of them have their own volunteer coordinators.

- 4) Provide letters of recommendation from persons who have seen you work with children
- 5) Meet other requirements set by the School of Education
- 6) Make acceptable scores on the required tests: Please see [www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites-and-tests](http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites-and-tests) for specific information.

All teachers in Oregon must pass specific **basic skills, content knowledge, and civil rights knowledge** tests before they can be licensed to teach. Applicants to GTEP must provide documentation indicating passing scores on **basic skills** and **content knowledge (middle school)** as part of their GTEP application. The **civil rights knowledge** test will be taken during the program; it is **not** required for admission to the program. Some of the tests are paper-based tests and some have a computer-based option. **Applicants should make arrangements for taking the tests as early as possible, but no later than eight (8) weeks prior to the December 1st deadline.** For more general information about the approved licensure tests in Oregon, go to the [Teachers Standards and Practices Commission \(TSPC\) website](http://www.tspc.org).

#### **Content Knowledge Tests (Middle School)**

TSPC has approved **content knowledge** tests with two different testing vendors (Praxis and ORELA/NES), depending on the particular content area that a teacher candidate is seeking. Please see <http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites-and-tests> for specific test information.

**Completion of the above requirements does  
not guarantee admission to the  
School of Education, as admission is limited and competitive.**

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#### **If You Do Not Yet Have a Bachelor's Degree:**

Students normally select their major from within the liberal arts and sciences. It is wise to major in a subject area that is part of an elementary school curriculum. Most often students are encouraged to choose to major in an interdisciplinary major (Science, Arts and Letters, Social Science, or Liberal Studies). The following list represents the breadth of subjects, which are important for teaching. While students are not necessarily expected to take all these courses, a solid foundation in these areas is essential teacher preparation.

**Math and Sciences:** Historically, students intending to teach at the elementary level have had good preparation in social sciences and in humanities. Many have, however, had minimal preparation in the areas of math and sciences. It will become increasingly important for students wishing to teach at the elementary and middle levels to demonstrate competency in these areas. Students with good preparation in mathematics and in the sciences are highly competitive in the admission process and on the job market. **Students whose transcripts reflect an avoidance of math and sciences are not likely to be viewed as strong candidates.** Since there is currently no shortage of elementary teachers in Oregon, making oneself the best possible applicant becomes critical to admission to a teacher education program and to job placement.

**Second Language:** Additionally, preparation in a second language is recommended. In much of Oregon, familiarity with Spanish, Russian, or Chinese is a highly desirable skill. Students who have studied a foreign language are believed more likely to understand some of the challenges which non-native speakers of English face in the school system.

**Middle School Authorization:** Students who intend to do the **Middle School** authorization as one of their areas need to do a major or a minor in one of the secondary subject specialization fields (e.g. social studies, English, biology). **Middle School** authorization students, in addition to the basic skills test will also test in their subject field. Passing scores vary depending on subject.

## **Suggested Courses to include in your undergraduate degree:**

ED 150 – Teaching as a Career (includes practicum)

SPED 417 – Introduction to Special Education (includes practicum)

### **Science:**

BI 201/204, 202/205, 203/206 – **Fundamental Biology with labs**

G 201/204, 202/205, 203/206 - **Geology with labs**

**G 355** - Geology for Elementary Educators

**G 399** – Earth System: Life Science for Elementary Educators

**G 410** - Earth/Space Science for Middle School

**G 430 – Life in the Past (includes lab)**

SCI 201 - Natural Science Inquiry

**SCI 311 - Teaching Everyday Science (includes lab)**

**SCI**--selected upper division topics (**SCI 311-348 include labs**)

### **Social Science:**

ANTH 103 Introduction to Social/Cultural Anthropology

BST203, 204 - Introduction to Afro-American History

A course in Economics

Geography - two courses from the following: 210, 230, **332, 346, 348, 350**

HST 201 & 202 - U.S. History (upper division may be substituted) or HST 101, 102, 103 – Western Civ.

PS 101, 102 - US Government, US Politics

PS 200, 203 - Intro. to Politics, Intro to State & Local Politics

PSY 200, 204 - General Psychology

SOC 200 - Introduction to Sociology

WS101 - Introduction to Women's Studies

### **Language Arts:**

English and American literature - 8 credits

Non-American Literature – 4

LING 233 – Language and Mind

SP 230 – Public Speaking

Writing courses - A strong preparation in writing is invaluable in teacher preparation. Course work could include WR 121, 222, **323**

### **PE/Health:**

PHE **365**, Health Programs for Children and Youth

## **If You Already Have a Bachelor's Degree:**

Students need to take the pre-requisite courses (art, music, math, etc.) prior to matriculation into the Graduate School of Education. The Graduate School of Education reserves the right to determine whether a student's background is sufficient or whether additional course work, training, or experience, is needed. **For students who have a bachelor's degree**, evaluation for pre-requisite course work, appeal of deficiencies, if any, and advising will be done by the Graduate School of Education, (503) 725-4619.

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**Other Graduate Level Programs:** This advising information sheet is for students intending to apply to the PSU Graduate Teacher Education Program (GTEP). Other Graduate Teacher Education programs in the Portland area include;

**Concordia University  
OSU in Portland**

**Lewis & Clark College  
Marylhurst, West Linn**

**University of Portland  
Pacific Univ., Forest Grove**

*Please see [www.ous.edu/teachedguide.htm](http://www.ous.edu/teachedguide.htm) to view "How to Become an Oregon Teacher" and a list of statewide teacher education programs.*

For more information about teacher licensing in Oregon go to [www.tspc.state.or.us](http://www.tspc.state.or.us)