

Pre-Teacher Special Education
College of Liberal Arts and Sciences Advising Center
498 Neuberger Hall, (503) 725-3822
PORTLAND STATE UNIVERSITY

6/2008

The Special Education Program (SPED) is a graduate program designed for individuals who have completed a bachelor's degree from an accredited college. Students can major in any subject area but need to include prerequisite courses (see page 2).

Why special education?

- Highly rewarding work with individual students and small groups of students.
- Work not only with students but also with families and classroom teachers.
- A teaching career that involves social change and advocacy.
- High job security and many teaching opportunities.
- Opportunity for a variety of roles within the classroom, home, or community.

Financial Aid and Loan Reduction

- Federal scholarships and PSU scholarships through the special education department in some specializations.
- Special educators may be eligible for federal programs for loan forgiveness and loan elimination after they begin teaching (up to \$21,000 in 2007).

To learn more:

<http://studentaid.ed.gov/PORTALSWebApp/students/english/teachercancel.jsp?tab=repaying>

What kinds of teacher education programs are available in special education?

- Dual licensure/master's degree in elementary and special education
- Dual licensure/master's degree in middle level and special education
- Dual licensure/master's degree in secondary and special education
- Elementary special education/master's degree
- Middle/secondary special education/master's degree
- Early Intervention/early childhood/master's degree special education
- Teachers of visually impaired/master's degree

All students interested in Special Education should attend one of the School of Education's frequently offered group **information sessions and obtain an information/application packet, available in 204 ED.** Call (503)725-4619 for times of information sessions and for application packets.

Website: http://www.pdx.edu/sped-coun/special_ed.html

SPED Admission Requirements:

1) Complete the following **pre-requisite courses**:

PSY 311 (4 credits) - Human Development (PSY 215 -PCC or PSY 237- MHCC)

Math 211, 212, & 213 (12 credits) – Foundations of Elementary Math

ED 420 (4 credits) - Introduction to Education

SPED 418 (3 credits) - Survey of the Exceptional Learner

Additional courses will be required for the dual licensure/master's degree. Please see the Special Education website for more information:

http://www.pdx.edu/sped-coun/special_ed.html

Highly Recommended Courses

The following courses are highly recommended as preparation for the Special Educator program.

SPED 417 (4 credit) - Careers in Special Education

SPED 419/519 (3 credits) - Principles of Special Education

SPED 460/UNST 421 (6 credits) - Outdoor Education/Recreation with Individuals with Disabilities, or, UNST 421: Senior Capstone: Learning From and About Persons with Significant Disabilities

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

- 2) Have at least a 2.75 GPA
- 3) Complete the transcript and experience review form
- 4) Complete two recommendation forms
- 5) Submit the Special Education writing sample
- 6) Meet other requirements set by the School of Education
- 7) Make acceptable scores:

On either the **CBEST** (California Basic Educational Skills Test): www.cbest.nesinc.com/

OR

the **PPST** (Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Test): www.ets.org/praxis/index.html

Completion of the above requirements does not guarantee admission to the School of Education. Application deadlines and start dates vary depending on the program.

Please see http://www.pdx.edu/sped-coun/special_ed.html

K-12 Teacher Preparation at Portland State University

Portland State University educates prospective K-12 teachers in the Graduate School of Education. Teacher licensing is part of the Master of Education degree and is achieved through the Graduate Teacher Education Program (GTEP) in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction.

Undergraduates at Portland State University may prepare for competitive admissions by consulting with appropriate advisers, by achieving high academic standards in the recommended and required courses for specialization and in courses in liberal arts, and by documenting successful experience with children in the public schools. Passing scores on teacher exams mandated by the Oregon Teachers Standards and Practices Commission (TSPC) are also required for entry into the GTEP.

Pre-Education Undergraduate Advising

Early childhood and elementary education:

Prospective elementary teachers should consult with the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences, Advising Center, 498 Neuberger Hall, (503-725-3822) and see advising information at <http://www.pdx.edu/clas/advising.html>.

Middle school education:

Prospective middle school teachers who have a preference for teaching multiple subjects (as in elementary education) should follow advice from the College of Liberal Arts and Sciences (503-725-3822). Those who prefer to get a content area specialization that may also apply to teaching at the high school should contact the pre-education academic adviser in the academic department of choice (see information below).

High school education:

Prospective high school teachers should contact the pre-education academic adviser within their major department. Academic majors and their respective secondary endorsements are as follows: biology (biology and general science); physical education (physical education); history, anthropology, sociology, philosophy, political science, geography, and economics (social studies); health (health); mathematics (mathematics); English (English language arts); art (art); foreign languages and literatures (foreign language); music (music); chemistry (chemistry); physics (physics); business and economics (business); drama (drama); speech (speech). Note: A current adviser list is available from the GTEP admissions secretary, 602 School of Education Building, (503) 725-4753, or http://www.pdx.edu/education/future_advising.html.

Graduate Teacher Education Program advising: Students considering application to the PSU GTEP should make an appointment to attend an advising session for prospective applicants by calling (503)725-4619 or stop by the information desk on the second floor of the School of Education Building.

Preparatory coursework early childhood and elementary educators:

Required: Art 312 Art in the Elementary School; Lib 428/528 Children's Literature, K-5; Mth 211, 212, 213 Foundations of Elementary Mathematics; Music 381 Music Fundamentals; Psy 311 Human Development. **Recommended:** Ed 420 Introduction to Education and Society; CI 432 Computer Applications for the Classroom.

Middle, junior, and high school educators:

In addition to a strong liberal arts education, all students should complete the requirements for their major in the endorsement area of their choice. **Required:** Psy 311 Human Development. **Recommended:** ED 420 Introduction to Education and Society, CI 432 Computer Applications for the Classroom.