

GTEP: Frequently Asked Questions

Prerequisites

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

Psychology 311, Human Development, which is required for *all applicants*, may be substituted with Psychology 215, Human Development, at either Portland Community College or Mt. Hood Community college.

The Math 211 and 212 courses can also be taken at the community college but applicants must also complete the Math 213.

Middle and Secondary level prerequisite; Psy 311 may be substituted with Psychology 215, Human Development, at either Portland Community College or Mt. Hood Community college.

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

In order to waive courses that were taken at other institutions that might be equivalent to PSU requirements, the student must contact the PSU department that the course corresponds to and have an instructor that teaches the course sign a waiver form. The waiver forms can be obtained in Rm. 602 in the Education building. The Music Department does waivers once a term.

- Contact the dept. for further information. Psychology 503.725.3923, Math 503.725 3651, music 503.725.3011, Art 503.725.3515, other department numbers are available through the PSU Main Switchboard 503.725.3000

Testing

What tests are required for the GTEP program?

All applicants are required to 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**:

Elementary (early childhood/elementary/middle level) applicants 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. For a subject area endorsement at **Middle Level**, applicants must also take the appropriate specialty area of the PRAXIS exams.

Secondary (middle level/high school) applicants 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 in the Praxis registration booklet. Applicants are required to take all the sections listed under the heading of their particular specialty area exam. For the **Middle Level** authorization, applicants must also take the ORELA (multiple subject exam) www.orela.nesinc.com

- *All test registration materials can be found in Rm. 204 of the Education building.*

Completion of Requirements

If the prerequisites and tests are not completed before the application deadline, can an applicant still be admitted?

The admissions committee will consider applicants that still have some prerequisites to complete. To be considered applicants must submit a **Plan of Completion** that demonstrates how they will be able to complete the prerequisites before the program actually begins. However, applicants are required to submit passing scores on the tests to be considered for admission to the program.

GPA

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

GPA can be considered in three ways: the entire undergraduate program, the upper-division course work, or the completion of 12 credits of graduate level courses that are completed prior to application (with a 3.0 or better in those courses).

If the GPA is below 3.0, applicants may still be admitted into the program if the rest of their application is especially strong. When the GPA is below 2.75, applicants are not eligible for regular admission to graduate studies in the university. In very rare circumstances, applicants with unusually strong backgrounds may be admitted conditionally.

After Applying

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

Students are discouraged from working while completing the program. If any arrangements for work are made, students must have a very flexible schedule with limited hours a 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 six to eight weeks of the application deadline. Following review of the applicant's file, qualified applicants are invited to participate in a simulation exercise. It is expected that all qualified applicants will participate in this simulation exercise which usually occurs about four to five weeks after the application deadline. Following the simulation exercise, the GTEP Admission Committee makes admission decisions and letters of notification are sent to the applicants.

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 Initial Field Experience Practicum, Student Teaching I, and Student Teaching II; CI 563, Teacher As Researcher; and elective credits. GTEP students 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 master's requirements before completing the GTEP?

It may be possible to complete the elective credits prior to the completion of 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

Is it possible to complete the master's requirements before applying for the GTEP?

Elective credits may be taken prior to application; however these credits are subject to approval of the cohort leader (advisor) and ultimately, the Department Chair and the Office of Graduate Studies. 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.