Pre-Secondary Education--Social Studies
CLAS-Advising Center, M305, Smith Memorial Student Union, (503) 725-3822

The Graduate Teacher Education Program (GTEP) is designed for individuals who have completed an undergraduate degree from an accredited college and are seeking their Preliminary Teaching License through completion of the Graduate School of Education’s 4-term full-time or 8-term part-time graduate-level professional training program. Successful completion of GTEP qualifies an individual to Social Studies in a secondary classroom.

Dual Endorsement: The Preliminary Teaching License at the Secondary Level with endorsements in both content area and in special education is a full-time, six-term program leading to a Master’s degree and licensure in both secondary and special education. For complete information visit http://www.pdx.edu/ceed/secondary-dual-educator-program.

Students interested in GTEP should attend one of the School of Education’s frequently offered group information sessions. Call (503)725-4619 or see http://www.pdx.edu/education/gse-advising for open advising sessions.

GTEP Admission Requirements:

A) Have at least a 3.0 GPA (cumulative undergraduate or graduate level)

B) Complete a core of social science and other courses. These courses may be taken through a community college. Each GTEP Social Studies applicant must have a Departmental Recommendation form submitted by Jon Rousseau, jon5@pdx.edu, (503) 725-3822.

Any student applying for GTEP must have a minimum of a B- in each course in the endorsement area and at least:

- 12 credits in history - 8 credits of U.S. history and 4 credits of world history
- 12 credits in geography - an introductory course in human geography (such as Geog 230), a course in maps and geographic information (such as Geog 380), and a course in regional geography (such as geography of the U.S. or North America)
- 8 credits in economics - micro/macro
- 8 credits in political science (e.g. US govt. systems)

These requirements represent the minimum credits required for admission into GTEP in the subject area. Students wishing to be more competitive are encouraged to do more than the minimum preparation in the social studies subject area.

(C) ED 420 Introduction to Education (includes 30 hours practicum) is strongly recommended. Course work should be taken for differentiated grades.

(D) Have experience working with children in educational or social agencies*

(E) Provide letters of recommendation from persons who have seen you work with children

(F) Meet other requirements set by the School of Education

(G) Earn acceptable scores in the following required tests:
Content Knowledge Tests
TSPC has approved content knowledge tests with two different testing vendors (ORELA/NES), depending on the particular content area that a teacher candidate is seeking.

*The specific tests required by TSPC are subject to change. Return to the TSPC, ORELA/NES, and Praxis websites regularly for updates. For complete testing information see [http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites-and-tests](http://www.pdx.edu/ci/gtep-prerequisites-and-tests).

Experience: Preparing to be a teacher requires more than your academic course work. You should plan on building solid experience 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 a diverse mid-level or high school classroom. The strongest candidates will have had some exposure to both mid-level and high school level students. Solid recommendations from teachers and administrators who have observed you interacting with young people are an important part of your application.

PSU SENIOR CAPSTONES provide an excellent opportunity to gain valuable experience working with youth. Speak with an adviser regarding capstones that might be appropriate for you.

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.

GTEP admits secondary students for **Summer term (deadline Feb. 1)**. The most competitive applicants meet all requirements by the application deadline (if still an undergraduate you must graduate before the GTEP program begins). Priority is given to applicants who have a complete application file by the deadline.

**Other Graduate Level Programs:** This advising information sheet is for students intending on applying to the PSU Graduate Teacher Education Program (GTEP). It is important to know that admission to GTEP is competitive, not all applicants are accepted. Students should also be aware of other graduate-level programs in the Portland area;

- Concordia University
- George Fox, Newberg
- Lewis & Clark College
- Marylhurst, West Linn
- University of Portland
- Pacific University, Forest Grove

Outside the Portland-area, there are also a number of graduate-level programs for middle and secondary–level social studies which can be found at [www.ous.edu/stucoun/prospstu/teached](http://www.ous.edu/stucoun/prospstu/teached)

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