CONSIDERING THE PROGRAM

1. **What are the professional backgrounds and experiences of students in the program?**

   The Ph.D. program in Teacher Education and Teacher Development draws students of different professional backgrounds, including teachers, principals, vice-principals, department chairs, directors of curriculum and instruction in school districts, faculty and staff in higher education seeking a terminal degree, and individuals in state departments of education and other agencies and private organizations who provide various types of support for teacher development. While some are still in the early stages of their careers, others are looking to fashion new career paths out of their long and valuable experiences as educators.

2. **What types of employment do TETD program graduates seek?**

   The TETD program is designed to prepare graduates for a wide variety of employment options within the education sector. Our graduates are prepared to become leaders in schools and school districts pertaining to the induction, mentoring, and ongoing development of teachers; professors in schools and colleges of education, community colleges, and adult education programs responsible for preparing the future generation of teachers; leaders in higher education providing support for faculty development; and leaders in state departments of education and other agencies helping to establish policy, design programs, and conduct research to improve the quality of the teaching force.

3. **Can I specialize in a particular discipline or area (e.g., Reading, Math, Science)?**

   There are no specializations within the TETD program. However, students do take 9 elective credits, and it is possible to design electives so that a student develops special expertise in a particular area or discipline.

4. **Can I take classes on a non-matriculated basis prior to being formally admitted into the program?**

   All of the courses for the Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Teacher Development program are reserved for students enrolled in the program.

5. **Are there opportunities for financial assistance within the TETD program?**

   A number of Doctoral Fellowships are available for full-time students. These fellowships come with tuition remission and a biweekly stipend, and require a 20-hour work commitment per week assisting doctoral faculty with their research in addition to the doctoral coursework. Students who receive a Doctoral Fellowship cannot have any other job while they are receiving the Fellowship. More information about Doctoral Fellowships can be found here: [http://www.montclair.edu/graduate/current-students/financial/graduate-assistantships/#gendoctoral](http://www.montclair.edu/graduate/current-students/financial/graduate-assistantships/#gendoctoral)
APPLYING TO THE PROGRAM

6. When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for the program is February 1 for admission the following fall term.

7. How many years of teaching experience are needed to qualify?

Applicants should have at least three years of full-time teaching experience prior to applying.

8. Is the GRE required? If so, do I have to have a certain GRE score to qualify?

The GRE is required for the Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Teacher Development program and cannot be waived. Note that GRE scores are valid for approximately five years. If you have taken the GRE within the last five years, you can request that a copy of your scores be sent to Montclair State University (MSU). It may take up to four weeks for MSU to receive those scores (even electronically), so ensure that you allow enough time prior to the application deadline. The program has not established a cut-off score for the GRE. The GRE scores are considered along with all the other application materials in making admissions decisions.

9. How many applicants apply, and how many students are accepted into the program each year?

The Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Teacher Development is a competitive program. We admit only about 12 students per year and receive many applications for these slots in the program. By design, the program is small because we are committed to providing those who are admitted the support they need to complete all requirements in a timely fashion. Applications are reviewed on a holistic basis. We select students for the program who are fully committed to developing a deep understanding of how teachers learn and develop over their careers, have a clear vision of teaching in a diverse society, possess the academic preparation needed to handle the rigor of a doctoral education, and have shown persistence in overcoming challenges and barriers to reach their goals.

10. What can I do to improve my chances for admission?

The best way to ensure that your application is strong is to present a complete application that shows you have given attention to carefully and thoughtfully preparing it. This will require substantial advanced planning. The process entails contacting previous and current universities for transcripts, soliciting strong academic and professional letters of recommendation from people who know you and your career goals well, preparing thoughtful and well-written responses to the three essay questions in the application, and preparing for and taking the GRE, if you do not have current scores.

11. What happens after I apply?

All applications are reviewed by the Graduate School and by TETD doctoral faculty. After the initial screening, selected applicants are invited to interview on campus with members of the TETD faculty in the spring. Admission decisions are generally made within two weeks of the interview, and applicants are notified shortly thereafter.
WORKING TOWARD YOUR DEGREE

12. Is it possible to be enrolled in this program and work full-time?

The Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Development offers both a full-time and part-time option. A majority of the students in the program work full-time and take courses on a part-time basis.

13. Are weekend and online courses available? Are courses offered in the winter and summer terms?

Currently, all courses in the TETD program meet in-person and on campus, and most are conducted in a seminar format. While no courses are now available in the winter terms, we do offer courses in the summer. Generally, courses meet in the evenings and during the weekdays. Some summer courses meet during the day.

14. How long does the program take to complete?

Students proceed through degree programs at different paces, so it is difficult to say how long it would take any one individual. If students plan accordingly, they may finish the program within four or five years. Overall, doctoral students are given seven years to complete the degree. Students who regularly take fewer than six credits per semester and do not take summer courses will take longer to complete the program.

15. Do you offer a “fast track” or accelerated option?

Although we do not offer a “fast track” option, the Ph.D. in Teacher Education and Teacher Development does allow students to move through the program in a timely manner without sacrificing the integrity of their preparation.

16. Can I transfer credits from other programs?

Decisions about transfer credit are made at the point of admission. Students may be able to transfer up to nine credits into the program, but those courses need to meet a number of criteria established by the Graduate School and the program faculty. For example, the courses must be doctoral level, cannot have counted towards the completion of another degree, and must be an appropriate match to program curriculum. Any courses that transfer should also fit the student’s needs in the TETD program and relate to his/her particular focus within the program.

The Graduate School website also has a section for Frequently Asked Questions. If your question or answer isn’t on this page, it’s likely that it can be found here.