

# Urban Teacher Residency Program at Montclair State University

## FAQ Page

### **Questions about Program Eligibility**

#### **Q: Is the program to teach English or only math and science?**

A: Graduates earn an MAT as well as dual certification in TSD AND P-3, K-6 OR P-12 Subject Area (Biology, Chemistry, Earth Science, English, Mathematics, Physics, Spanish, Social Studies, and TESOL)

#### **Q: I'm a senior graduating in May and my GPA is below 2.75. Can I still apply? If I can't, is there anything else I can do to be considered for the program?**

A: All applicants must have a GPA of 2.75 or higher. Unfortunately, applicants with GPAs below this requirement are not eligible to apply.

#### **Q: I have only completed one semester in the Master's program at Montclair. I haven't completed my clinical yet, I am still eligible to apply?**

A: If you are already enrolled in a certification program at MSU, then you are ineligible for this program. However, we ask that you consider applying to [the Newark Teacher Project](#) for your clinical year.

#### **Q: Are international students eligible to apply?**

A: While international students are ineligible for the UTR program, we encourage you to apply to MSU's teacher education program with the proper visas. For more information, please visit the following two web pages:

- <https://www.montclair.edu/graduate/how-to-apply/international-applicants/>
- <https://www.montclair.edu/international/>

#### **Q: Are DACA students eligible to apply?**

A: Yes DACA students are indeed eligible to apply assuming the following:

- they have work authorization and can therefore meet the residency/teaching requirement because they can be hired by a school district. (Individuals that do not have work authorization, however, would not be able to meet that requirement)
- they meet the Higher Education Act (HEA) requirements around "teacher resident" and fulfill the other statutory requirements may receive the stipend/ salary

#### **Q: I'm interested in ESL, I'd like more information on how to do this program to be an ESL teacher.**

A: The program supports students interested in receiving their P-12 subject area certification for TESOL. In order to qualify for this certification area you will need coursework in Linguistics. Please refer to [the NJDOE's website for a list of requirements for the TESL certification](#) or Tina Bollitteri ([bollitterit@montclair.edu](mailto:bollitterit@montclair.edu)) at MSU.

**Q: Being an ESL student - because English is my second language - do I need the courses for Spanish or is the CLEP test I took enough?**

A: In order to earn your certification in teaching Spanish, you will need to complete the necessary coursework requirement as described here. The CLEP test is not required for graduate programs (the UTR is a graduate-level program), but CLEP credits do count as language courses and may fulfill some of your subject-area course requirements.

**Q: If I passed the writing and the OTI and WPT test, is it better for me to do MAT Spanish or do your program?**

A: Congratulations on passing these tests! If you are interested in teaching Spanish, and you already have the required content area coursework, then you are eligible for the Urban Teacher Residency program. If you still need to take necessary coursework in Spanish, then it may be better for you to apply to MSU's MAT program because you can continue to take the necessary content area coursework. Please review the NJDOE's website for coursework requirements or contact Samita Mezger at MSU (mezgers@montclair.edu). That said, it is up to you to decide which program is "better" for you to do based on your timeline as well as your commitments to antiracism and social justice.

**Q: I recently graduated with a BPS in music from Berklee College of Music. Do I need to have a BA to apply to the program? Is music a possible subject area?**

A: We are not able to prepare music teachers through the UTR, however we encourage you to apply to MSU's P-12 Music MAT program. You will be eligible to apply to the Newark Teacher Project during your clinical year in the program and receive some of the same benefits of the UTR program.

### **Questions about Program Application**

**Q: Do the letters of recommendation have to be from faculty of Montclair? Who exactly is a good person to get a letter of recommendation from?**

A: No, letters of recommendation do not have to be from Montclair faculty. Your letters should be from individuals who can speak to your potential for completing the program and being an effective teacher. Your letters should be from former or current professors or supervisors. Your letters should not be from personal friends or family members.

### **Questions about Required Exams, Tuition, Fees, & Stipend**

Please visit [this page](#) for more information about testing requirements.

**Q: How much is the tuition?**

A: There are fees to enter the program, to participate in the program, and to apply for certification. These fees are as follows:

- Praxis Core (reading, writing & math): \$150 combined, \$90 each separately (fee waiver available if eligible)
  - or ACT/SAT ~\$50

- or GRE ~\$160
- In-state or out-of-state tuition and fees are the same: \$31,500
- Praxis Subject Assessments: \$120-240 (depending on cert)
- edTPA exam: \$300
- NJ State Certification Fee: \$170
- Commencement Regalia: \$82

**Q: Is financial aid available?**

A: You will receive a \$44,000 living stipend that will be dispersed in increments throughout the program year (4 semesters). In your fifth semester you will be a full time teacher with salary and benefits. You may also apply for financial aid using the FAFSA form.

**Q: Is the \$44,000 stipend taxed?**

A: Yes. Also, should a graduate not complete their three-year teaching requirement in an approved school district, the graduate will need to re-pay the \$44,000 stipend.

**Q: How can I get support with test fees?**

A: You can use your financial aid to cover entrance test fees. If English is not your first language, then you can apply for extra time.

**Q: Do I have to take both the Praxis Core and the Praxis Subject Assessment before applying to the program?**

A: You are required to have a passing score on the Praxis Core prior to applying to the program and at least proof of paid registration (i.e. an entrance ticket) to an upcoming test date for the Praxis Subject Assessment. We advise you have completed the necessary Praxis Subject Assessment exams prior to starting the program in June, but if this is not possible, please apply anyway. Should you have any challenges passing either exam, please contact us at [utr@montclair.edu](mailto:utr@montclair.edu) to discuss possible support.

**Q: How can I get support with test preparation?**

A: If you are applying to the UTR program and you have an entrance ticket for your Praxis Core exam, you are eligible for test preparation support from MSU's test preparation Donna Kobza ([kobzad@montclair.edu](mailto:kobzad@montclair.edu)), whose office hours are: Mon. 2:30 – 7:00 p.m. Tue. 2:30 – 7:00 p.m. Wed. 9:00 - 3:00; Fri. 9:00 – 2:00 p.m. Please also visit [this page](#) for more resources.

**Q: I took the PRAXIS 1 in December 2013 and passed. Would I have to take it again because of the time?**

A: No. The Praxis Core (Praxis 1) has a 10-year expiration.

**Questions about the Program/Curriculum**

**Q: What are the hours for the classes?**

A: The UTR is a full time program from June 1 until you start working as a full time teacher during your record year. You will be in your clinical placement 4-5 days a week from about 8 am to 4 pm, depending on your mentor teacher's schedule. You will also take classes at MSU 1-2

days a week either during the day or after your clinical placement day (from about 4-6:30 pm). There will be a few events throughout the year that will take place on either the weekend or until about 8 pm. You will not be able to maintain a job during this program.

**Q: Will I receive feedback on how to improve my lesson plans and strengthen any other areas I may need throughout the semesters? So I will be more likely to be placed in a school as a full time teacher after graduation?**

A: Yes, you will receive on-going feedback from the UTR team regarding your lesson planning, lesson delivery, and how you are connecting with your students. All students who have successfully completed the UTR program were able to secure full time teaching employment. That said, not all students complete the program and full time teaching employment is not guaranteed.

**Q: Will the program be virtual in the beginning? What happens if an applicant is worried about in person teaching during the ongoing pandemic? Will our courses be hybrid, in person only or virtual?**

A: At this time, all courses and clinical work are happening in a hybrid model. We intend to transition back to full in-person learning when it is safe to do so. Please note all MSU students are required to get vaccinated against Covid 19.

**Q: What happens if things do not get better with the virus and we have to teach virtually, will we receive guidance with that so that we can succeed in that aspect?**

A: Yes, you will receive guidance and support regarding how to teach virtually.