

Traders to Teachers Program FAQs

ELIGIBILITY

Q: Are displaced workers who are not from the financial services sectors eligible?

A: The program is open to anyone who has been displaced from a job that requires the use of mathematics. The New Jersey Department of Labor (DOL) will screen candidates initially for eligibility based on their employment situation and further review will be conducted by the Admissions Committee at Montclair State University.

Q: Are you only eligible for this program if you have been let go or fired?

A: The program is targeted for candidates who have lost their jobs as a result of the current economic downturn.

Q: I have not heard from the Department of Labor, and I'm not sure how to determine my eligibility. What do I need to do?

A: We are currently working with the Department of Labor to finalize this process and arrange for appointments to be set up with candidates. We want to reassure all prospective applicants that this delay will not affect their chances for admission into the program.

Q: If I have a Bachelor's, Master's, or Doctoral degree in mathematics, am I eligible to participate in the program?

A: Yes, candidates with mathematics backgrounds are encouraged to apply!

ADMISSIONS REQUIREMENTS

Q: What kind of coursework do I need to have on my transcript? Do I need to have taken math courses?

A: At least Calculus I and Calculus II are desirable, but candidates who have not taken these courses, but demonstrate strong aptitude for mathematics will be considered.

Q: Do I need a certain undergraduate cumulative GPA to be eligible?

A: No, although GPA is a criterion which will be considered during the application review process.

Q: I am not eligible for my Certificate of Eligibility under the Alternate Route program due to my undergraduate GPA. Would I be a possible candidate for this program?

A: Yes, because Traders to Teachers has no minimum undergraduate GPA requirement. However, GPA is a criterion that will be considered.

Q: Is admission competitive or can I get in if I meet all the requirements?

A: Admission is anticipated to be competitive, as there are a limited number of spaces available.

Q: Are there fees to apply?

A: Yes, there is a \$60 application fee to apply to the program.

Q: How are those who are interested in the program selected to participate?

A: The admissions committee will be considering a wide range of factors known to contribute to teacher success. These factors include but are not limited to mathematics knowledge and suitability for teaching.

All interested applicants register to take the Math Aptitude Test with us prior to completing the application for admission. We will be offering the test on the following dates and times:

Tuesday, May 5 from 8:30am - 10:00am; 10:30am - 12:00pm; or 1:30pm - 3:00pm
Thursday, May 7 from 8:30am - 10:00am; 10:30am - 12:00pm; or 1:30pm - 3:00pm

You must register for this test in advance, as space does not allow us to accommodate walk-in testing. To register for the test, please email mathteach@montclair.edu with your phone number and your 1st, 2nd and 3rd choice of date/time slot. Registration for specific test dates and times will be handled on a first-come, first-served basis, and we will send you a confirmation email with your actual test date and time.

THE PROGRAM

Q: How long does it take to complete the program?

A: The program consists of a 3-month training period followed by 2 academic years of teaching under mentored supervision. In some cases, candidates may begin regular full-time paid mathematics teaching positions as early as January 2010. In other cases, candidates may begin as long-term substitutes or assistants in January 2010 and move to regular teaching positions in September 2010. Situations will vary according to district needs.

Q: What costs do I need to pay for the program?

A: There is a \$60 application fee to apply to the program. If accepted, there are additional fees such as the substitute license and Praxis II test. After candidates are in paid positions they will be responsible for the mentoring fees, which will be approximately \$2500 over a two-year period.

Q: Is the program limited to certain locations?

A: Yes. The program will be a partnership between the State, Montclair State University, and districts local to Montclair State University in northern New Jersey. All participating districts are within a 30-mile radius of Montclair State University.

Q: When will I know where I will be placed for my 2-year teaching internship?

A: Some candidates will know their placement as early as September, but others may not know their placement until January 2010.

CERTIFICATION

Q: What certification do I receive after completing the program?

A: After successfully completing the 3-month portion of the program candidates are issued a special Certificate of Eligibility in P-12 Mathematics. In order to receive a standard permanent certification, candidates must complete 2 years of successful teaching, receive a passing score on the mathematics Praxis II examination.

Q: Could I potentially obtain another certification via this route?

A: No. However, candidates who successfully complete the full program and who receive a standard certification for P-12 mathematics are then eligible to "add on" other certification if they meet the appropriate coursework and testing requirements.

Q: If I already have a Certificate of Eligibility (CE), am I still eligible for the Traders to Teachers program?

A: Yes. Although the program seeks to attract candidates who may not have a traditional mathematics coursework background, candidates who hold a CE already will be considered.

Q: How does the Traders to Teachers program differ from the Alternate Route program?

A: There are several significant differences. Traders to Teachers provides intensive teacher preparation for three months prior to starting in the classroom in a paid position, handles job placement, and allows for the Praxis II to be completed while teaching. Traders to Teachers candidates must successfully teach for two years in order to receive a standard teaching certification. Alternate Route candidates must find their own positions, pass the Praxis, and have completed 30 credits of mathematics coursework prior to being eligible for the Alternate Route program. Alternate Route candidates must teach successfully for one year in order to receive a standard teaching certification.

JOB PLACEMENT

Q: How am I assigned to a district/school/teaching assignment?

A: School districts will be involved in the initial selection of candidates into the program. During the 3-month training period, the districts and the University will determine where each candidate will be placed.

Q: Can I choose my own placement for the training and two-year teaching commitment?

A: No. The Program determines placements for the training period and the two-year teaching commitment.

PRAXIS

Q: When do I need to take the secondary Mathematics Praxis II exam?

A: Candidates must pass the Praxis II by the end of the 2-year teaching commitment in order to receive NJ Standard teaching certification.

Q: What is on the Math Praxis II test?

A: The Praxis focuses on the following areas of mathematics: Algebra and Number Theory, Measurement, Geometry, Trigonometry, Functions, Calculus, Data Analysis and Statistics, Probability, Matrix Algebra, and Discrete Mathematics.

Q: Does the program prepare me to pass the Praxis?

A: Much of the mathematics content included in the Praxis II exam will be addressed over the course of the entire program. Some of the content will be addressed during the 3-month component of the program. Other content will be addressed in recommended coursework to be taken during the 2-year teaching period. However, candidates are expected to take the initiative to study independently for the Praxis II test.