



**Center of Pedagogy  
Teacher Education Program**

## **Examples of Interview Questions for the Admissions Evaluation Scale**

Teacher Education Admissions Committees use multiple sources of evidence to assess applicants in each of the criteria included in the Rubric for the Admissions Evaluation Scale, e.g.:

- Overall GPA and GPA in major field
- Grades on particular courses (e.g., Speech, English Composition)
- Take-home and impromptu essays
- Letters of recommendation
- Admissions Interview

For some criteria in the Rubric, committees are likely to have ample evidence--particularly criteria 1, 2, 3, 10, and 11. For criteria 4, 5, 6, 7, 8, and 9, however, the interview may provide the best source of evidence. Below are some interview questions that can be used to elicit information relevant to these criteria. PLEASE NOTE that all students must be asked question #1, as required by the Teacher Education Program. The other questions are optional.

- (1) *All teachers are increasingly responsible for teaching children of all backgrounds--including children who are from diverse racial, ethnic, socioeconomic, and linguistic backgrounds. What challenges and opportunities will this present to you? (Criteria #5 and #6)*
- (2) *Describe an experience you have had with someone of a culture, race, and/or religion different from yours. What impact, if any, did the experience have on you? (Criterion #4)*
- (3) *Many schools group students according to ability levels as measured by achievement tests in certain areas--for example, math, language arts, reading. What are the advantages and disadvantages of such placements? (Criterion #5)*
- (4) *All teachers are increasingly responsible for teaching children with disabilities in the regular classroom. What challenges and opportunities will this present to you? (Criteria #4, #5, and #6)*
- (5) *Sometimes there is tension or conflict between people from different ethnic or cultural groups in schools. What do you think schools could or should do to address this? (Criteria #6 and #9)*
- (6) *One of the central themes of Montclair's teacher education program is the fostering of critical thinking. What does critical thinking mean to you? (Criterion #7)*
- (7) *One of the central themes of Montclair's teacher education program is the fostering of democratic practices in school. What does democratic practice (or democracy) mean to you? (Criterion #8)*

