



GRADUATE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION

American Indian Teacher Program

Graduate Teacher Education Program

Initial Teacher License and Master of Education

- Full-time
- Part-time

AITP Background

The American Indian Urban Teacher Program was created to respond to the need to increase the numbers of Native teachers in Oregon's classrooms who share the cultural knowledge and languages of Tribal students. Research has established that while more than 2% of K-12 students in Portland Public Schools, for example, were American Indian or Alaskan Native (AI/AN), only 0.6 of their teachers are Native.

Because Portland State University (PSU) is strategically located at the center of a large urban Native population, the Graduate School of Education at PSU collaborated with a consortium of Oregon Tribes to apply for funding from the U.S. Department of Education for the preparation of 15 Native teachers over the next four years. Between 2014-2017, three cohorts of students will begin classes in June of each year to earn a teaching license and Master's degree in education. The fourth year 2017-18, is considered an induction year.

AITP Consortium Partners

The following Oregon Tribal Nations entered into a consortium with Portland State University to recruit students into the AITP, and to help implement the program goal of culturally responsive education:

- Confederated Tribes of the Grand Ronde Indian Community
- Confederated Tribes of the Siletz Indians
- Confederated Tribes of the Warm Springs
- Confederated Tribes of the Umatilla Indian Reservation

The AITP office is located in Room 330, Graduate School of Education building, 615 S.W. Harrison Street, Portland State University, PO BOX 751, Portland, Oregon 97207.

The link to the AITP website is www.pdx.edu/aitp

The link to the GSE website is www.pdx.edu/education

Come and Visit Us!



The Graduate Teacher Program (GTEP)

The Graduate School of Education (GSE) at PSU prepares more teachers than any other institution in the state. The Graduate School is a learning community which observes the following guiding principles in practice and employment:

- Diversity and inclusiveness in serving students and addressing needs
- Quality in model exemplary programs & practices
- Collaboration and professionalism in all efforts
- Ethical convictions in practice
- Democracy and social justice in all programs
- Sustainability in relationships of culture, curriculum and practice
- Inquiry with thoughtfulness as a basis for sound decision-making

Graduate Teacher Education Program checklist:

- Attend GTEP Information Session or meet with GTEP Admission Advisor
- Start Tk20 application
- Fill out and submit Portland State University Graduate Application

Initial Teaching License

Educators who are employed by public schools and who are compensated for their services from public funds must hold a valid license issued by the Teachers and Standards Practices Commission (TSPC). GTEP is a graduate program that is approved by the State of Oregon and meets licensure requirements to teach in Oregon K-12 public schools.

- Successful completion of the GTEP enables PSU to recommend teacher candidates for an initial teaching license for one or two authorization levels.
- Early childhood (age 3–grade 4)
- Elementary (grades 3–8 in an elementary school setting)
- Middle level (grades 5–9 in a middle school setting)
- High school (grades 9–12)

Tuition and financial aid

For information about tuition, scholarships, and other available financial aid, please contact the PSU Financial Aid Office at 503-725-3461 or pdx.edu/finaid.

AITP Program Highlights

The graduate school's teacher preparation program is 1 year long, beginning in June annually. Students apply for admission to both PSU and the Graduate School of Education. Additionally, students apply to the AITP through a separate application in which they answer questions about their commitment to teaching in schools serving American Indian and Alaska Native children.

Native American students accepted into the AITP will be awarded funding for tuition, licensing fees, books, dependent care and a stipend for living expenses. Before beginning their coursework, students in the AITP are required to sign a Payback Agreement in which they agree to teach for at least one year in a school district serving a significant population of Indian students. Failure to meet the terms of the Payback Agreement contract will result in the student being required to make a cash payback to the federal government of all expenses provided toward their education and teaching license.

Payback Agreement

Individuals receiving assistance under the Office of Indian Education Professional Development program are required to:

- (1) Sign a Payback Agreement, at the time of admission to AITP and the Graduate School, to meet the provisions of the payback requirement; and
- (2) Teaching or performing work related to the training received which benefits Indian people, or
- (3) Repay all or a prorated part of the assistance received if they do not accept employment in an educator position.

The period of time required for work-related payback is equivalent to the total period of time for which training was actually received under this program.

If a cash payback is required, it shall be equivalent to the total amount of funds received for training received under the program and may be prorated by the USDOE based on any approved work-related service the participant performs.

AITP Program Support

Tuition, living stipend, textbooks, applications fees, and licensure costs; (The award does not cover ALL fees.)

Fellows recruited to the AITP must first apply to the Graduate Teacher Program. No expenses can be paid for students until they are admitted to the GTEP and sign payback agreement. Our office can assist students in applying to the PSU Graduate School and to the Graduate School of Education.

Admission Policies

Students interested in joining the AITP must follow a three-step admissions process which involves submitting applications to the following three offices: 1) PSU, 2) the GTEP, and 3) the AITP. Steps involved in applying to both Portland State and the GTEP can be found in this document's appendix and also on the University website at the following links:

- www.pdx.edu/AITP
- www.pdx.edu/admissions
- www.pdx.edu/education/prospective-students

Application to the AITP must be submitted at the same time as the application to the GTEP. Prospective awardees will respond to questions indicating their prior work with the Indigenous community and Tribal reservations, and their experienced and interest in teaching Native children. An AITP review committee will read and rank candidates' commitment to teaching in schools serving American children as evidenced in their written application.

Acceptance into the AITP is contingent upon the student's signing of the Payback Agreement form. Students not accepted into the Graduate Teacher Education Program will be notified by the Graduate School, and will no longer be considered for the AITP.



Prerequisite Coursework

Students who find that they must take coursework required by the GTEP before enrolling in the program will be assisted by AITP staff in finding resources to pay for the courses. These resources and other scholarship funding sources can be found at our program website. As new resources become available, AITP will notify prospective students by email and post the information on our website.

Induction Plan:

The following will be provided by the AITP and the GSE:

1 Individual Mentor.

Each AITP student will be matched with an education professional who will act as mentor during their first year of teaching. Names of teachers and other educators viewed as exceptional professionals in their field will be solicited from the AITP Advisory Council, GSE faculty, and other school districts, agencies and offices. Mentors for students will attend training to learn about the AITP and the duties and responsibilities expected of them as a Mentor. Mentors will be asked to attend a group meeting of all mentors and mentees and be available to the first year teacher by email.



2 Mock Job Interviews.

AITP staff will work to expand the network of professional contacts for each student. Mock job interviews will be made available to the student through the Graduate School of Education and the AITP to help the student prepare for school district employment interviews.

3 Access to research materials and information on teaching and learning.

Twice a year, new teachers will meet as their schedules allow in order to support one another and build upon their community of practice. Research materials will be provided at these meetings and through email communication so that students will be familiar with current research and culturally responsive practices of teaching and learning.

4 Periodic meetings/Seminars.

The AITP will keep students abreast of professional development events, such as great speakers on campus and/or local educational convenings, designed to give students opportunity to further their teaching and learning.

5 Resume revisions.

"Keep your resume to one page." This is the message from school, districts, and administrators to enable them to sort quickly through hundreds of resumes. AITP will help students create a professional 1-page resume with graphic designs. We also will help with EdZapp (electronic) application, a job search engine used across Oregon.

6 Job Fairs.

AITP will email students notices of all scheduled Teacher Candidate Job Fairs.

7 Contact with Tribal schools and school districts with Title VII programs.

Beginning in February-March, AITP staff will call and email all Tribal schools and school districts in the Northwest with an Indian education program to ask about teaching vacancies. Additionally, our office will email BIE schools across the nation our newsletter with new teacher bios and resumes.

AITP Staff

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Find information about Professional Development, AITP seminars, classroom resources, and more <http://teacherprogram.wordpress.com>

Contact

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