

Selecting an Educator Preparation Program

THE ANALYTICAL PROCESS (A MORE LEFT BRAIN APPROACH)

Step 1: DETERMINING WHAT IS IMPORTANT

Using the **Criteria List** on the next page, rate each item from 0 to 2 in terms of importance to you. Items that you have scored at a 1 or 2 need to be added to your final rubric in Step 2.

Step 2: PREPARE YOUR RUBRIC

Select all of the items that you scored with a 2 and place them in the **Rubric Sheet** giving each one of them a weighted factor of 2. Now add the rest of your items that you scored with a 1 giving each of them a weighted factor of 1.

Step 3: DO YOUR RESEARCH

Using a list of **Oregon Approved Educator Preparation Programs**, select several universities or colleges that on the surface interest you. Use the websites, and contact persons to contact each institution. The Notes Sheet can help you keep track of the information gathered during this stage of the process.

Step 4: FIND A GOOD FIT

After you have gathered notes from each of your top choices, complete the Rubric Sheet and tally your scores. Don't forget to multiply by the Weighting Factor. After reviewing the scores, select those that you want to visit. Try to visit the campus while classes are in session. Some will let you sit in on a class or meet with faculty. You can use the rubric sheet again to narrow down to those programs to which you want to apply.

THE GUT INSTINCT PROCESS (A MORE RIGHT BRAIN APPROACH)

Step 1: WHO ARE YOU

Review the **Criteria List**. What seems important to you? Talk to experienced teachers as well as people you admire. What's important to others? How does that effect your views?

Step 2: LOOK AROUND CAREFULLY

Review a list of **Oregon Approved Educator Preparation Programs** to contact at least three programs that seem interesting to you. Jot down questions you want to ask beforehand and keep your notes separated by college or school. Try to visit the campus while classes are in session. Some will let you sit in on a class or meet with faculty.

Step 3: MAKE A DECISION

Use your notes to prioritize more than one institution and submit applications. Avoid making a final decision until you have heard back from any institutions to which you applied.

CRITERIA LIST

Suggested Weighted Factor appears in (parentheses) Those with a ? are dependent on your preferences-if important give them a weighting factor of at least 2 or higher.

CRITERIA	SCALE		
	0	1	2
	Not important	Somewhat important	Very important
Level of program (3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Baccalaureate level-undergraduate Bachelor of Arts (BA) or Bachelor of Science (BS) ● Post Baccalaureate-certification courses for teacher licensure only for those with a BA or BS (Note: tuition costs are usually at the undergraduate level) ● Graduate level-For those with a BA or BS seeking a Master’s Degree (MA or MS) (Note: tuition costs are higher but many districts pay a higher salary for teachers with a MA degree) 			
Housing accommodations (1) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● On campus (residence halls) Additional cost from tuition. ● Off campus (living at home or funding your own housing) Note: Need to consider how often you need to drive to the campus for mileage costs ● Distance for commuting from your home 			
Cost of program-how much will you owe (3) Add up the following to get true costs <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Tuition – check the university webpage for current rates ● Other student fees-Sometimes hidden, these can include a technology fee, parking, health fee, even a program fee for some programs. ● Availability of financial aid packages-Some universities offer tuition remission packages (reduces your costs and doesn’t impact your financial aid eligibility) ● Availability of scholarships- Check both the teacher preparation program website and the university financial aid webpage to see what specific scholarships may be available to you beyond those offered through the Office of Student Access and Completion 			
Program Features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Size of program/classes (x2) Note: the first two years in a Bachelor’s program can sometimes have large class sizes. ● Length of program (x2) Note: Programs vary in length 			
Special offerings (Adds to your marketability) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Add on endorsements offered (x2) ● Study Abroad (x?) ● Double major or minors (x1) 			

Delivery model <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Face to face classes or online (x2) ● Amount and type of field experiences (x2) ● Location and types of schools (x2) 			
Schedule of program and classes (x2) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Full time or part time day time classes ● Part time evenings and weekends 			
Reputation <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Nationally accredited (NCATE or TEAC) (x2) ● State approved (TSPC) (x2) ● Alumni opinions (ask for follow up studies) (x2) ● School principals (x2) ● Word of mouth (x1) 			
University features <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ● Size of total university or college (x1) ● Availability of transfer agreements (x1) ● Religious influence and orientation (x1) ● Disabilities services and campus climate (x2) ● Student diversity and campus climate (x2) ● Child care (x2) ● Responsiveness/supportive (x3) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> ○ Faculty affiliated with the program (x3) ○ Staff affiliated with the program (x2) ○ Admissions and advising offices (x2) ● Your gut instinct (x3) 			

RUBRIC SHEET

Calculate a score for criteria for at least 3 programs in order to be able to make comparisons.

Name of Program	Program 1			Program 2			Program 3		
Copy highly rated criteria using your completed Criteria List ↓ ↓ ↓	Score of 1 or 2	X Weighting Factor	= ___	Score of 1 or 2	X Weighting Factor	= ___	Score of 1 or 2	X Weighting Factor	= ___

TOTAL									

Comments and notes to remember: