The University of Southern Maine shall not discriminate on the grounds of race, color, religion, sex, sexual orientation, national origin or citizenship status, age, disability, or veteran’s status in employment, education, and all other areas of the University. The University provides reasonable accommodations to qualified individuals with disabilities upon request. Questions and complaints about discrimination in any area of the University should be directed to the executive director, Office of Campus Diversity and Equity, 780-5094, TTY 780-5646.

Multicultural Education Programs is funded by State Personnel Development Grant (SPDG) through Maine Department of Education. Multicultural Education Programs includes USM in consortia with participating schools at multischool teacher education sites.

GOALS:

- Assist aspiring paraprofessional and other qualified bilingual personnel to become certified teachers; and
- Provide tuition and related financial support for participants to complete coursework, internships and school placements, and prepare for teacher certification.
Newcomer ETEP was created to recruit language-minority candidates with teaching experience who want to become certified teachers in Maine. This two-year program provides individualized support and professional development and facilitates entry into the University of Southern Maine’s Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP). Candidates may have been teachers in their countries of origin and/or currently work as educational technicians or language facilitators. Candidates must also have a B.A. or B.S. degree, a strong commitment to becoming a teacher, and demonstrate English proficiency.

Multicultural Education Programs provides support in the following areas:

- Placement in a local school;
- Professional development opportunities;
- Praxis (required testing) support and tutoring;
- Application assistance to ETEP; and
- Financial support for tuition and books.

ETEP Application Checklist:

The ETEP application has certain requirements that must be completed prior to review by graduate admissions. Applications are due the first week of January. Multicultural Education Programs provides support to Newcomer ETEP students in applying to the ETEP program. The following is a list of requirements for the ETEP application:

- Application (completed and signed)
- Essay
- Resume
- Catalog of teaching experiences
- Three letters of recommendation
- Passing Praxis test scores
- Official transcripts

To learn more about the ETEP admissions process please see: [http://www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/ETEP/index.htm](http://www.usm.maine.edu/cehd/ETEP/index.htm)
Admission Into ETEP

Requirements for ETEP Admission:

Newcomer ETEP students applying to ETEP must pass two of the three Praxis tests by the first week of January in order for their application to be reviewed by Graduate Admissions. Newcomer ETEP applicants for the ETEP program will not be offered admission until officially passing all three Praxis tests and test results have been received by the graduate admissions office. Newcomer ETEP students are not guaranteed acceptance into ETEP.

Newcomer ETEP students must also satisfy undergraduate course pre-requisites (minimum GPA of 2.5 on 4.0 scale), maintain a B average in required academic content for the intended certification area, be actively involved in the school placement and in Newcomer ETEP activities.

The Newcomer ETEP Cohort:

The cohort structure is an important component of Newcomer ETEP. Newcomer ETEP students progress through the Newcomer ETEP program as a cohort; a learning community of peers deriving mutual support and inspiration from one another. Full participation in cohort activities is an essential requirement for successful completion of the Newcomer ETEP program. The cohort may meet from time to time to discuss school placements, coursework, Praxis testing and tutoring, education in the United States and other important topics. In the second year of Newcomer ETEP (the ETEP year), the cohort continues to derive support from peers and program staff in the areas of professional development and ancillary pedagogical skills.
Newcomer ETEP Program Requirements

Year One Classroom Placements:

Experience in the classroom is an essential component of the Newcomer ETEP program. Through a classroom placement, Newcomer ETEP students will learn about education in the State of Maine and will work directly with veteran teachers, interact with a variety of students, explore instructional strategies, and observe classroom management. The placement also provides access to children in schools in order for Newcomer ETEP students to complete university coursework.

The classroom placement can be accomplished in a variety of ways and Multicultural Education Programs staff will assist in the placement process.

1. Newcomer ETEP student is a school employee working directly with students (e.g. educational technician, language facilitator, targeted-need certified teacher, etc.); or
2. Newcomer ETEP student volunteers in a classroom for at least 10 hours a week for the Fall semester (September through December) and 15 hours a week during the Spring semester (January through May); or
3. Newcomer ETEP student is employed as a long-term substitute teacher.

Praxis Fees:

Paper-based test fees: Each test: $40.00  
Registration fee: $50.00

Computer-based test fees: One test: $80.00  
Two tests: $120.00  
Three tests: $160.00

Financial support for tests fees is available for Newcomer ETEP students. Contact Multicultural Education Programs for information regarding Praxis testing fees.

Praxis II:

As of August, 2005, students wishing to receive their teaching certification must pass Praxis II Subject Assessments. Multiple tests may be required depending on your certification areas, which tests your knowledge of subjects you want to teach as well as general and subject-specific pedagogical skills and knowledge. For more information on Praxis II requirements see: www.maine.nea.org/dir4/PraxisII_exams_approved.htm
Praxis Supports:

*Multicultural Education Programs* provides Praxis support to Newcomer ETEP students. Supports include the following:

- Familiarizing Newcomer ETEP students with Praxis;
- Praxis tutor to develop test-taking strategies and to prepare for the test;
- Providing study guides and test preparation resources;
- Financial support to take and retake tests; and
- Assistance with test registration and payment.

Requesting Additional Time for Praxis Tests:

For Newcomer ETEP students for whom their primary language is not English (PLNE), can apply for additional time to take the Praxis tests. Test takers who meet ETS requirements will be allowed 50% additional testing time. Newcomer ETEP students must complete an eligibility form every time they register for PLNE accommodations. Also, PLNE test dates are only offered four times per year.
Newcomer ETEP Program Requirements

Praxis

The State of Maine requires candidates seeking teacher certification to pass the Praxis I Academic Skills Assessment (Pre-Professional Skills Tests – PPST). This test measures basic proficiency in reading, mathematics and writing. The University of Southern Maine requires a passing score on two of the three subtests prior to acceptance into the Extended Teacher Education Program (ETEP).

Passing scores for the State of Maine are:

  Reading  176
  Math      175
  Writing   175

As of June 2005, a composite score of 526 on the three tests will serve as passing the Praxis I requirement, provided that no one subscore is less than three points below a passing score.

To ensure that USM graduate admissions and the State of Maine certification office receives tests results, Newcomer ETEP students must include USM (code R3691) and State of Maine (R 7368) as score recipients. It is also the responsibility of Newcomer ETEP students to send copies of their Praxis score reports to Multicultural Education Programs.

Praxis Registration:

The Praxis tests are offered in two formats: paper-based and computer-based. The paper-based tests are offered six times a year with registration deadlines approximately one month before each testing period. Computerized tests may be taken once per calendar month, up to six times in a 12 month period (the 12 month period begins with the first test taken after July). Tests results for paper-based tests can take approximately 6 weeks to arrive. Computer-based tests results are immediately known to the test taker except for the writing test which takes 6 weeks.

Praxis registration forms and study guides are available through the Praxis website at www.ets.org/praxis, or in person at Multicultural Education Programs (62 School Street, Gorham), or Academic Assessment Office (253 Luther Bonney Hall on the Portland Campus).

Multicultural Education Programs will also assist Newcomer ETEP students with Praxis registration.