

Eastern Mennonite University
Teacher Education Admission Interviews
February 2013
Faculty Information

A formal interview is part of the process for admission to teacher education at EMU. The interview provides candidates with an opportunity to demonstrate their emerging professionalism as pre-service teachers. Candidates are expected to discuss their ideas about teaching diverse students and their understanding of the education department's conceptual framework (http://www.emu.edu/education/conceptual_framework.pdf).

The teacher education interview is one of multiple criteria used in the admissions process. Although the interview will not determine admission status, candidates cannot be admitted to teacher education without completing the interview. The candidate must be articulate and specific, answering questions with careful thought and demonstrating a commitment to the teaching profession.

Students have submitted the Teacher Education Application in order to be assigned an interview.

The Teacher Education Admissions Interview is scheduled for 15 minutes on February 19, 2013, and will be conducted by a panel of EMU faculty and area educators.

The candidate is expected to present him/herself in a mature and professional manner. Dress as if participating in a job interview is expected. Candidates have been instructed to arrive at least 5 minutes early and wait in the hall outside of the scheduled interview until the EMU education department faculty comes to get them.

Interview Procedure—15 minutes

1. Introductions (The host meets the student at the door to call in the next candidate):
 - Panel Members—name, department
 - Student—name, major and describe the teacher you want to become.
2. Interview Format:
 - Candidates will be asked 3 main questions. There may be follow-up or clarifying questions.
 - Interviewers will complete a rubric (white copy) and will take notes during the interview.
 - Each interview is scheduled for 15 minutes followed by a 5-minute debriefing among the interview team.
3. Roles and Responsibilities for Interviewers:
 - Education faculty member—note taker, host of the interview (bringing candidates into the room), complete individual rubric and group summary rubric, give original of group summary rubric to Administrative Assistant, and meet with the candidate at a later date to provide feedback from the interview team.
 - Department faculty member—facilitator (asks the lead questions), timekeeper (signal the group?) and complete individual rubric.

- Clarifying questions may be asked by any team member, but please remember that the purpose of the interview is to provide time for the candidate to speak.
4. After each interview:
 - As a team, take 5 minutes to debrief and complete the rubric (gray copy). Score each category with a check. Summarize the feedback that the Education faculty member will give to the candidate in the individual conference.
 - Turn in all interview (white copy) and summary rubrics (gray copy) to the Administrative Assistant by noon tomorrow to be placed in the student's file.
 - Schedule an appointment to give feedback from an education department member of the interview team before Spring break.

Interview Questions (PLEASE KEEP CONFIDENTIAL):

As an introduction, ask the candidate to name one personal attribute that will contribute to his/her effectiveness as a teacher.

1. This is a two part question. (a) First of all, describe the teacher you want to become; if we were to walk into your classroom, what would we see? (b) Now comment a bit on what you will do to become that teacher.
2. The education department's goal is to become teachers who teach boldly in a changing world through an ethic of care and critical reflection. Explain your understanding of this statement.
3. This is a two-part question. (a) Tell us what "diversity of needs" means to you. (b) Based on your classroom experiences, or imagining your future classroom, describe a positive experience with diversity and one that is less positive. What do they look like?

CLOSURE steps:

- ☐ After completing all of the interviews, scan through the summary rubric and ensure that the student's name, the interview date, a check-marked score for each criteria, and appropriate comments are completed.
- ☐ Turn in all interview and summary rubrics (one per student) to Administrative Assistant by noon tomorrow.