

Open School MAT Residency Program Frequently Asked Questions

How does the reduced tuition rate for OMAT compare to that of the traditional MAT cohort rate?

The per-credit OMAT rate is approximately 2/3 of the regular MAT program rate. This discount is applied shortly following your registration for each term.

How many spots are available in this program?

Currently up to three candidates are selected each year to join the OMAT Residency program. After the March 1st application deadline all submitted applications will be reviewed. Selected qualified applicants will be contacted by the School of Education and invited to a joint interview with University of Portland faculty and Open School representatives.

If I am invited to interview for OMAT but am not selected for one of the two spots, can I still be considered for the traditional (10-month) MAT cohort?

Yes. By submitting your OMAT and your MAT application by the March 1st deadline you will be under consideration for both programs. If you are selected to interview for OMAT but are not one of the two candidates selected, your application will be forwarded to the MAT committee for further review and consideration for the traditional 10-month cohort, based on your OMAT interview. If your application is not chosen for an OMAT interview, you may still be invited to interview for the traditional 10-month cohort. (You will not need to interview twice.)

How does the compensation for OMAT students work?

During year one, candidates are paid a modest hourly rate for their work. Currently first year OMAT candidates are paid hourly for a ten-hour per week work tutoring schedule. Beginning in fall of the second year, and for the duration of the year candidates earn around \$2,000.00 per month for full-time co-teaching at Open School East.

Am I still eligible to apply for student loans for this program?

Yes. OMAT candidates are enrolled in 5-7 credits per term, which meets the credit totals needed to be considered for federal student loans. For more information about applying, please refer to the financial aid website.

How does the co-teaching work? Will I still be taking classes at University of Portland while I am teaching at Open School East?

During your second year, you will teach full days at Open School East, under the guidance and supervision of an Open School teacher. You will register and receive credit for Student Teaching (which is required for your license) during this time. During the Spring term of your second year you will be attending a weekly seminar at the University of Portland, which meets on Mondays from 4:10-6:55 pm in addition to your teaching schedule at Open School East.

What is Open School East like?

Open School East is a new 7th–12th grade college prep school in East Multnomah County that works with kids who are most likely to drop out of public schools. Starting with a class of 46 in 2014, the school will serve 270 students from six school districts by 2019. The school is committed to doing what it takes so that every student graduates, goes to college, and pursues a meaningful career. Open School is an innovative new school model with a robust program to help students who are currently struggling in school to reengage with their academics. The school emphasizes school-based advocacy and mentoring, culturally inclusive instruction and curriculum, personalized advocacy and mentoring, and family partnerships.

Can I choose what subject or grade level I teach?

Open School offers opportunities to work with middle and high school students. While you may identify subject areas of interest on your application form, there is a process for determining what subjects candidates will teach if they are accepted into OMAT. A number of factors, including your undergraduate major and prior college coursework, as well as subjects and levels with available placements at Open School will factor into your designated placement and what subjects you may be licensed to teach. *Note: if your goal is to work with early childhood or elementary-level students, you should apply for the traditional 10-month MAT cohort instead.*

Should I take the State test in the subject or subjects I'm hoping to teach before I apply?

No. If you are selected for a spot in OMAT, you will work with the University of Portland and Open School to determine your primary subject area, and will receive information about required testing and deadlines. Similarly, if you are not placed in OMAT but are still under consideration for the on-campus MAT, our MAT program coordinator will work with you to provide the needed testing registration and deadline information following your interview.