An Explanation of the Gates

The WTEP teacher candidates must demonstrate mastery of content areas and pedagogical and professional knowledge before admission to and during internship. Entry criteria are outlined in the Introduction to Teaching Handbook while exit criteria are outlined in the WTEP Directed Student Teaching Handbook. Education majors must advance through a series of Gates beginning with Gate 1 which includes successful completion of ED 2203 Introduction to Teaching and students passing all three areas of the Praxis I with official scores filed in the Education Department. A minimum grade of “C” is required in all specialization courses in order to proceed through the Gates.

Once an education student has passed Praxis I and completed all other prerequisites for admission into the WTEP including completing 45 semester hours, maintaining a GPA of 2.5, obtaining two letters of recommendation from WBC faculty, initial preparation of their teaching portfolio, and filing of a degree plan, he or she may then apply to be screened for admittance into the Williams Teacher Education Program as part of Gate 2. NOTE: Specific admission requirements are found on page 22 of the Introduction to Teaching Handbook.

Gate 3 involves admission into and successful completion, with a “C” or above, of the block courses; ED 4113 Study of the School and ED 4133 Measurement and Evaluation. Gate 4 requires that the teacher candidate take all required Praxis II content tests and submit official scores to the Education Department. All departmental requirements must also be met including successful completion with a “C” or above of the Methods course for his or her degree program prior to enrolling in Directed Student Teaching. Gate 5 includes teacher candidates completing the Praxis II Principles of Learning and Teaching exam and submitting official scores to the Education Department. Gate 6 requires that teacher candidates must complete DST and take all Arkansas Department of Education required Praxis II tests and submit official scores to the Education Department to be considered a “WTEP program completer”. Gate 7 previously included passing the Praxis III exam required by the ADE but that is currently under revision by the ADE and the WTEP is awaiting confirmation of the new evaluation procedures that will be put into place for initial licensure. Gate 7 will be amended as needed when these changes are complete.

As the education student / teacher candidate progresses through this series of Gates, they are provided with numerous opportunities to demonstrate mastery of and reflect upon their own content knowledge, pedagogical knowledge, and professionalism through observations, microteaching, videos of their teaching, designing thematic units, successful integration of technology into teaching, and a wide array of other experiences. This demonstration of mastery continues throughout the Directed Student Teaching experience and is evaluated through multiple instruments. Cooperating teachers evaluate interns based on the four PATHWISE Domains using a rubric which includes:

- Domain A: Organizing Content Knowledge for Student Learning
- Domain B: Creating an Environment for Student Learning
- Domain C: Teaching for Student Learning
- Domain D: Teacher Professionalism
In addition, each of these areas contain scoring criteria which relate specifically to the WTEP Conceptual Framework and address the intern’s ability to demonstrate communication, integration, and caring in the school environment.
To assist interns in becoming reflection action teachers, each intern also completes a self-evaluation which includes the areas of personal characteristics, classroom management, relationships with students, teaching techniques, and professional attributes.