

# GRADUATE PRELUDE

# FAQ

## Is Graduate Prelude open to all CEHD graduate students?

Yes. All Master's, PhD, Bachelor's/Accelerated Master's (in their transition semester) and Graduate Certificate students, whether taking courses online or in-person, should participate in Graduate Prelude. Members of contract cohort programs may also take part.

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## How does Graduate Prelude Work?

It's an online, self-paced series of orientation information modules that takes about 2 hours to complete. Some modules include discussion questions, giving you a chance to meet other new CEHD grad students in your chat group. The modules will be released on August 1. Students should review all modules by August 14. If your program is hosting a program-specific onboarding session it is wise to complete Prelude before that session, if possible.

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## When can I access the Graduate Prelude modules?

Instructions for how to access your Blackboard account will be sent in late July. You will have access to Graduate Prelude modules via Blackboard beginning on August 1 and you should aim to complete Graduate Prelude by August 14.

Good news! You will continue to have access to the modules in your Blackboard account throughout your first semester. However, you are expected to know and follow Mason policy from day one, so now is the time to review the materials.

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## Is my program also hosting an onboarding session?

- **Counseling:** August 16, 11:30 am
- **Early Childhood Education:** Students should register for one of two sessions: Saturday, August 14, 10:00 am -11:30 am, Fairfax Campus, Johnson Center, George's (Third Floor) or Tuesday, August 17, 7:00 pm - 8:00 pm, Virtual via Zoom
- **Education Leadership:** August 19, 4:30 - 5:30 pm [Zoom Link](#)
- **Educational Psychology:** August 18, 8:00 pm (*tentative, check email for updates*)
- **Literacy Coaching Certificate:** August 11, 6:30 - 7:30 pm
- **Literacy Leadership Master's:** August 14, 10:30 am
- **Literacy Reading Specialist Certificate:** August 14, 10:30 am
- **LCPS Literacy Cohort:** August 17
- **Mathematics Education Leadership:** August 12, 5:30 - 6:30 pm
- **School Psychology:** August 27, 5:00 pm
- **Secondary Education:** August 16, 5:00 - 6:00 pm
- **Special Education/Assistive Technology:** August 9, 6:00 - 7:30 pm
- **Sport and Recreation Studies:** August 16, 6:00 - 6:30 pm

*Check your Mason email for more information and updates about these sessions.*

*Don't see your program listed? They may decide to add a breakout session closer to the date or hold a welcome/orientation on a different date. Check your Mason email for updates from your program office.*

# GRADUATE PRELUDE FAQ (CONTINUED)

## **I've been a Mason student before. Do I need to participate in Graduate Prelude?**

You sure do! Even if you have studied at Mason before, and even if you have been a College of Education and Human Development student before, we can guarantee you that you will learn something valuable. There are different expectations and new resources for graduate students, and graduate policies are often different from your undergraduate years. If you encounter a topic you're already an "expert" in, you can skip ahead. 😊

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## **I'm really busy. Can I skip the Blackboard modules and just ask what I need to know at my program onboarding session?**

Nope. First of all, no one wants to tune in to your program session to hear you ask what you could have discovered in one of the modules (#GradStudentFauxPas).

Secondly, you don't know what you don't know. Whether it's what to do if you have a personal life crisis that forces you to miss several classes, or how to get a parking permit, there is always something to learn and we've got you covered. Reviewing the modules is time well-spent.

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## **I learned a lot from the Graduate Prelude modules and I don't have a question to ask at my program session. Should I skip it?**

Remember how we just said, "You don't know what you don't know"? Yeah. That applies here, too. If you have a program-specific onboarding session in addition to Graduate Prelude, you can rest assured that it will include lots of new information that you're going to need!

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## **So is Graduate Prelude mandatory?**

We don't like to use the M-word. This is grad school after all. Think of it this way: your graduate degree or certificate represents a big commitment in time and a financial investment in yourself. Why wouldn't you want to give yourself the best possible start? We survey all of our students after Graduate Prelude and we have never had one tell us that Graduate Prelude was a waste of their time.

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## **I just received my admission letter from CEHD and I haven't received information on how to access Graduate Prelude. What should I do?**

It may take a few days for your Graduate Prelude invitation email to arrive. If you have not received an invitation by August 6, please contact the CEHD Student Communications Coordinator, Meg Yoder at [myoder@gmu.edu](mailto:myoder@gmu.edu).