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.

How does Graduate Prelude Work?

It’s a self-paced series of orientation information sessions – 10 modules in all – followed by a scheduled 60-minute Prelude Live Q&A session. Some modules include discussion questions, giving you a chance to “meet” other new CEHD grad students in your chat group. The ten modules will be released in two parts. Part I will be released on Saturday, August 1. Part II will be released on Saturday, August 8. Students should review all topics from Parts I & II before their Prelude Live Q&A session.

When can I access the Graduate Prelude modules?

Instructions for how to access your Blackboard account will be sent in July. You will have access to Graduate Prelude modules via Blackboard beginning with Part I (Modules 1-5) on August 1. Part II (Modules 6-10) will be released on August 8. You should plan to review all 10 topics before your Prelude Live Q&A session.

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

When is my Prelude Live session?

That depends on which program you are enrolled in:

Thursday, August 13, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Advanced Studies in Teaching and Learning (ASTL)
- Athletic Training
- Education Policy
- Educational Psychology
- Elementary Education
- Exercise, Fitness, and Health Promotion
- Learning Technologies
- Mathematics Education Leadership
- Research Methods
- School Psychology
- Secondary Education
**GRADUATE PRELUDE FAQ (CONTINUED)**

### Saturday, August 15, 11:00 am – 12:00 pm
- Counseling
- Early Childhood Education
- Education Leadership
- Literacy
- PhD in Education
- Special Education
- Sport and Recreation Studies
- Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse and Exceptional Learners (TCLDEL)

Still unsure which Prelude Live session to attend? Contact the CEHD Office of Student and Academic Affairs at staycehd@gmu.edu.

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**What if I am unable to attend my Prelude Live session?**

While we encourage you to attend your live session, we know sometimes other commitments may need to take priority. Sleeping late or binge-watching Netflix don’t count, but if you are unable to attend your Prelude Live session for a valid reason, please contact the CEHD Office of Student and Academic Affairs staycehd@gmu.edu as soon as possible.

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**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 Part I & Part II and just ask what I need to know at the Prelude Live Q&A?**

Nope. First of all, no one wants to tune in to Prelude Live 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 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 Prelude Live. Should I skip it?**

Remember how we just said “You don’t know what you don’t know”? Yeah. That applies here, too. Be sure to tune into your Prelude Live session to meet your peers and the CEHD Student Success Team (we’re tons of fun), and learn from the questions of others.
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.

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 July 24, please contact the CEHD Office of Student and Academic Affairs at staycehd@gmu.edu.

How do I access my Graduate Prelude Live session?

You will be emailed instructions on how to access your Graduate Prelude Live session by August 10.