

Montessori Early Childhood Education Program 2014-2015

About Us

The Master of Science in Education in Teaching and Learning focuses on preparing professional teachers to understand the theory and practice of teaching and learning. Through the Montessori Early Childhood Education program, students complete all requirements for the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) early childhood (ages 2.5-6) teacher certification. The coursework also allows students to be eligible to apply for (081) birth-5 teacher certification with the Maine Department of Education.

The program is offered in collaboration with the Maine Montessori Institute located at Winfield Children's House in Falmouth, Maine. Winfield Children's House is an AMS accredited early childhood program serving children ages 12 months-age 6. The Maine Montessori Institute is a full affiliate training site of the American Montessori Society and is a MACTE accredited teacher training center. Students learn the practice of teaching through a year-long internship and explore the theoretical and research-based principles of the Montessori method and materials design by Dr. Maria Montessori.



Program Overview

This full-time, year long program begins in the summer with a two-week intensive training and continues from September through June. Coursework located at Winfield Children's House is concurrent with an internship in a program approved Early Childhood Montessori school. It leads to an M.S.Ed. in Teaching and Learning.



Join us for a Montessori Early
Childhood Education Program
Information Session

For a schedule of additional dates
please call (207) 797-8101

Application Materials

It is the applicant's responsibility to ensure that all application materials are postmarked or received by the Graduate Admissions Office by the deadline. Please note that the application deadline and requirements may change from year to year.

Required materials include:

1. Application Fee of \$65.00.

-Online application fee must be paid by credit card.

-Fee is non-refundable.

2. USM Application for Admission to Graduate Study (only online applications accepted).

-Program Selection Sheet must be included as part of the application

3. Official Transcripts (2) from all colleges or universities attended (including USM).

-Transcripts must be sent directly from the institutions or submitted in the original sealed and unopened envelope.

-Two official transcripts from all institutions of higher learning.

-Students with international transcripts, including Canadian, must have them evaluated by either WES (www.wes.org) or CED (www.cedevaluations.com) prior to applying. (This is a DoE regulation.)

4. Praxis I Official Scores:

-When you register, include

1) USM (R3691) and

2) Maine Department of Education (R7368) as score recipients.

-Applicants must have three scores within three points of passing, totaling no less than 526.

5. TOEFL Official Scores:

For applicants whose first language is not English. This requirement is waived for :

-Students who earned a bachelor's at an English-speaking university

6. Three (3) Letters of Recommendation

Letters should reflect an applicant's academic ability to succeed in graduate study and/or potential as a professional teacher. If possible, at least one should be from a faculty member familiar with the applicant's academic work, and at least one should attest to the applicant's work with children.

7. Résumé showing history of employment, education, and community service.

8. Essay (2 to 3 pages) Replace Question #17 in the Graduate School Application with an essay that responds to the following prompt:

-Why do you want to become a Montessori teacher?

-What characteristics do you possess that you feel will make you successful in the area of teaching?

-What is your personal style of teaching?

-How will you incorporate the material learned in the Montessori early childhood education program into your own style of teaching?

9. Catalog of Experiences (2 to 3 pages)

Provide an annotated list of experiences particularly significant in your development as a learner and prospective teacher. The catalog should describe your experiences working with young children and any events that have led to a deeper understanding of early childhood education and/or the Montessori Philosophy. It should also include the insights you have gained from those experiences.

For more information about the application and materials visit the USM Graduate Admission website at:

<http://usm.maine.edu/graduateadmissions/graduate-admissions-general-application-instructions>

Characteristics of Successful Applicants

Excellence in the completion of an undergraduate degree in an appropriate academic discipline

Prior experiences working with children in instructional situations

Learner-centered educational philosophy

Self-knowledge, maturity, and sensitivity toward others

Ability to adapt to, and learn from, new and challenging situations

Demonstrated written and oral communication skills

Successful performance on the Praxis I teacher certification examination

Commitment to equitable learning

FMI: Maine Montessori Institute

Directors: Michelle Vogel;
Catherine Martin

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USM Graduate Admissions Office

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Portland, Maine 04104

Mailing address:

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P.O. Box 9300, Portland, ME 04104-9300

TEL: (207) 780-4386 or
(800) 800-4USM, ext. 4386

TTY: (207) 780-5646

FAX: (207) 780-4969

Email: gradstudies@usm.maine.edu

<http://usm.maine.edu/grad>

Program of Study (45 credits)

(subject to change)

ECE 510	Practical Applications of the Montessori Method for Students with Exceptionalities
ECE 511	Classroom Leadership and Environmental Design in an Early Childhood Montessori Classroom
ECE 512	Montessori Principles and Philosophy
ECE 513	Child Development, Family and Community
ECE 514	Practical Life in the ECE Classroom
ECE 515	Sensorial in the ECE Classroom
ECE 516	Early Childhood Assessment and Observation
ECE 520	Language Arts in the ECE Classroom
ECE 521	Math in the ECE Classroom
ECE 522	Cultural Subjects-Science in the ECE Classroom
ECE 523	Cultural Subjects-Social Studies in the ECE Classroom
ECE 525	Early Childhood Practicum
ECE 526	Early Childhood Practicum II or Internship
EDU 600	Research Methods and Techniques
EDU 643	Inquiry in Education

Upon successful completion of the coursework and internship, students need to complete the Maine Montessori written, oral and performance exams as well as a Comprehensive Exam prior to recommendation for the AMS Early Childhood Credential. Successful completion of the coursework and exams is a requirement for the Master's degree.

The University of Southern Maine reserves the right to revise, amend or change curriculum set forth from time to time. Accordingly, readers of this program material should inquire as to whether any such revisions, amendments or changes have been made since the date of publication.



Tuition and Other Financial Information

COST FOR NINE-MONTH OPTION

Graduate Tuition Rates for 2013-2014:

Maine Resident: \$ 380.00 / credit
Non-Resident: \$ 1026.00 / credit
NEBHE rate: \$ 570.00 / credit
Canadian rate: \$ 570.00 / credit
Fees: Approximately \$ 1,210.00

The total 2013-2014 cost for the typical 45 credit hour program is approximately \$17,100 for Maine residents.

Out-of state residents should estimate costs using the figures above.

For information about whether you are eligible for the New England Board of Higher Education (NEBHE) rate, visit www.nebhe.org

Important Notes:

1. Tuition rates for 2014-2015 will be posted in late spring.
2. To register for classes, a student must be matriculated. A student is matriculated once she/he has paid the \$200 deposit to hold the spot. All deposits are applied to the fall tuition.

FINANCIAL AID & SCHOLARSHIPS

USM's Office of Financial Aid offers a variety of financial aid programs and financing plans. Visit the USM Office of Financial Aid website for information on USM scholarships, and loans:

www.usm.maine.edu/fin

Call (207) 780-5250 or email

fin-aid@usm.maine.edu

Scholarship Information

The School of Education and Human Development has scholarships available for eligible students who apply. Scholarship deadline is March 1

FMI visit: usm.maine.edu/sehd

Or contact:

Kimberly Warren
(207) 780-5902,
kwarren@usm.maine.edu

The Montessori Philosophy

The Montessori Method is an approach to education which guides children through the “voyage of discovery.” A vast array of specially designed educational equipment is introduced to the child by Montessori trained teachers (facilitators) in an atmosphere that promotes personal responsibility, freedom of choice, problem-solving skills, self-esteem, love and respect. After becoming Italy’s first woman physician in 1896, Dr. Maria Montessori focused her attention on the emotional and intellectual needs of young children. Her unique human insights, discovered through countless hours of observation led to the application of principles and the development of theories known as the Montessori Method.

There are now over five thousand Montessori schools across the nation. The Montessori Method has been used successfully with children from birth through high school. Students from all socio-economic levels, various cultural back-grounds, and diversified academic abilities have successfully attended Montessori programs. By design, classrooms include both younger and older children. In this way, younger children have the opportunity to learn from those who are older. In turn, the older children develop leadership skills. As each child matures, the roles shift. Learning to give and receive from teachers and peers is a basic Montessori concept.



The underlying principles which form the foundation of the Montessori Method is that education must follow the developmental and psychological needs of the child. “The building of the character and the personality is the most important single result of our whole work.” -Maria Montessori

A prepared environment rich with manipulative learning materials is available allowing children to progress at their own pace. Positive reinforcement, learning by doing, order and freedom to choose are advocated in Dr. Montessori’s principles. Children learn self-confidence and responsibility through purposeful activity, observation, and discovery. From the earliest age children are encouraged to become independent learners, to use critical thinking skills and to be problem solvers.

Our challenge as educators is to prepare an educational environment that will provide for the optimum development of the human potential. Our vision is a new generation of adults with clarity of vision and competent creative minds who will have a positive impact on the future of the world.

