

MONTESSORI EDUCATION PROGRAM

The enduring educational philosophy of Maria Montessori (1870 – 1952), physician, developmental scientist, and educator, embraces constructivist principles and aims to educate the “whole child”. Montessori was nominated three times for the Noble Peace Prize for her work in education. Her guiding consideration of respect for the individuality of each child is timeless.

The mission of the Montessori Program is to prepare caring and competent teachers to work with a diverse population of children in preschool and the elementary grades, and to become agents of positive social change. St. Mary’s College offers the following Montessori Education programs:

- Liberal Studies Minor: Montessori Thought
- American Montessori Society Early Childhood Certificate Program
- American Montessori Society Elementary Education Certificate
- Master of Arts
 - Montessori Early Childhood Education
 - Montessori Elementary Education
- Master of Education Degree in Montessori Education
 - Early Childhood Emphasis
 - Elementary Emphasis
- Master of Education Degree in Applied Developmental Education
 - Early Childhood Emphasis
 - Elementary Emphasis

Note: Acceptance into any KSOE graduate degree program requires a separate application and acceptance process from the credential and certification programs.

Liberal Studies Minor for Bachelor of Arts Degree:

Montessori Thought

Saint Mary’s College undergraduate students may elect to take courses offered by the Montessori Education Program to complete a Liberal Studies Minor in Montessori Thought. Graduate students may continue their Montessori education, including participation in a paid internship and completion of curriculum requirements to earn the American Montessori Society Early Childhood or Elementary Certificate and/or a Master’s degree in Montessori Education.

Students must meet with their advisor and with the ECE and Montessori Education Program Coordinator as early in their academic career as possible.

In addition to the general liberal studies requirements, including EDUC 119 (formerly EDUC 122) and EDUC 144 (Cognitive Development), the Minor requires three courses and a one credit [undergraduate courses are measured in credits; graduate courses are measured in units] course from the list of electives.

Required Courses (3 credits)

MONT 161

ECE 163

ECE 164

Possible Electives (.5 credit only)

ECE 131

ECE 159

ECE 160

ECE 166

ECE 167

ECE 168

MONT 111

MONT 112

American Montessori Society Certificate Programs

The Montessori Early Childhood and Montessori Elementary Certificate Programs prepare the student to teach children in a Montessori setting. The programs are affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS), and accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). The certificate programs may be completed in a 2-year cycle with options to complete a MA in Early Childhood Education, and a MA Montessori Elementary Education or a M.Ed. in Montessori Education.

Montessori Early Childhood (2.5-6 years old) Certificate Program (29 units)**Specialization Courses (23 units)**

MONT 210

MONT 261

ECE 231

ECE 263

ECE 264

ECE 259

ECE 260

ECE 266

ECE 267

ECE 268

Field Experiences (6 units)

MONT 311

MONT 312

MONT 320

MONT 330

American Montessori Society Elementary (6-12 years old) Education Certificate (32-34 units)

Prerequisite (2 units)

For those students who have not received a Montessori Early Childhood Certificate.
MONT 287 Montessori Overview

Specialization Courses (26 units)

MONT 210
MONT 261
MONT 263
MONT 264
MONT 265
MONT 266
MONT 267
MONT 268
MONT 269
ECE 231
MONT 270
MONT 223

Field Experiences (6 units)

MONT 411
MONT 412
MONT 420
MONT 430

Master of Arts Montessori Early Childhood Education (38 units)

The Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE) with a specialization in Montessori Early Childhood Education is built upon and includes the completion of the American Montessori Society (AMS) ECE Certificate Training Program. Upon completion of the M.A. in ECE with a specialization in Montessori Education and the AMS ECE Certificate, students may be qualified to apply for California Child Development Permits through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing.

Montessori Early Childhood Certificate Program (29 units)**Research Courses (9 units)**

EDUC 572
EDUC 582
EDUC 592

Note. Passing of EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I) with a B or better and passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) are required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and are prerequisites to EDUC 582 (Research Seminar II). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass EDUC 572 and the WPE in the first semester of their graduate coursework.

Master of Arts Degree in Montessori Elementary Education

The Master of Arts in Montessori Elementary Education for the teaching of children ages 6–12, is build upon and includes the completion of the American Montessori Society Elementary Education Certificate training program.

Certificate Courses (32-34 units)

Research Courses (9 units)

EDUC 572

EDUC 582

EDUC 592

Note. Passing of EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I) with a B or better and passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) are required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and are prerequisites to EDUC 582 (Research Seminar II). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass EDUC 572 and the WPE in the first semester of their graduate coursework.

Master of Education Degree in Montessori Education (42–47 units)

This degree is built upon a Montessori Certificate completed at Saint Mary’s College, Kalmanovitz School of Education.

AMS Montessori ECE Certificate (29-32 units) or

AMS Montessori Elementary Education Certificate (32-34 units)

Specialization Courses for Students with Certificates in Montessori Early Childhood Education (11 units)

MONT 263

MONT 264

MONT 265

MONT 266

Specialization Courses for Students with Certificates in Montessori Elementary Education (13 units)

ECE 263

ECE 264

ECE 259

ECE 260

ECE 266

Research Courses (7 units)

Research Courses (9 units)

EDUC 572

EDUC 582

MONT 599

Note. Passing of EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I) with a B or better and passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) are required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and are prerequisites to EDUC 582 (Research Seminar II). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass EDUC 572 and the WPE in the first semester of their graduate coursework.

Master of Education Degree in Applied Developmental Education

This degree builds upon a preliminary teaching credential (Multiple or Single Subject or Special Education) completed at Saint Mary's College Kalmanovitz School of Education. Candidates complete core Montessori courses and specialize in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. An AMS Early Childhood or Elementary certificate can be obtained with additional coursework

Credential Component

Multiple or Single Subject or Special Education Preliminary Credential completed at Saint Mary's College Kalmanovitz School of Education. Montessori minor students must complete a minimum of 30 graduate units.

Early Childhood Emphasis

Concentration Courses (13 units)

MONT 261
ECE 263
ECE 264
ECE 259
ECE 260

Research Courses (9 units)

EDUC 572
EDUC 582
EDUC 592

Note. Passing of EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I) with a B or better and passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) are required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and are prerequisites to EDUC 582 (Research Seminar II). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass EDUC 572 and the WPE in the first semester of their graduate coursework.

Elementary Emphasis

Concentration Courses (14 units)

MONT 261
MONT 263
MONT 264
MONT 265
MONT 266

Research Courses (9 units)

EDUC 572
EDUC 582
EDUC 592

Note. Passing of EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I) with a B or better and passing the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) are required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and are prerequisites to EDUC 582 (Research Seminar II). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass EDUC 572 and the WPE in the first semester of their graduate coursework.

Montessori Education Courses

MONT 161/261 Montessori Philosophy in a Cultural Context (3)

This course examines the philosophical foundations of Montessori education in a developmental context and within the further context of the family and the community. Along with, and embedded in the Montessori philosophy, students will consider the psychology of parenting and practices, parent-teacher relationships, locating community and professional resources and the critical value of full inclusion.

MONT 210 Learning and Development (3)

Psychological principles and major learning theories applied in education. Stages of growth focusing on biological, psychological, and social development and education of the whole child. Synthesis of affective and cognitive perspectives, right/left hemisphere brain function, language development and interaction, and sex role socialization from birth through adult phases. Developmental issues and their effects on individuals and families in schools and marriage, family, child counseling settings.

MONT 287 Montessori Overview (ECE) (2)

Introduction to the Montessori early childhood method of education, emphasizing the continuum of development in the young child (birth to age 8). Curriculum areas and classroom management skills as well as philosophical principles. Preparation for assisting in Montessori early childhood classrooms. Prerequisite for Elementary Montessori Program for those without Montessori early childhood background.

Montessori Early Childhood Courses

(See Early Childhood Education section for Early Childhood Education course descriptions)

MONT 311 Field Observation & Seminar I (1)

MONT 312 Field Observation & Seminar II (1)

Observation in Montessori and other ECE classrooms. Includes the exploration of skills and techniques of observation and descriptive, analytical reporting. Examination of the ethnic and cultural diversity of schools, demographics and implications for teaching practices. Forty (40) hours of fieldwork and seminars.

MONT 320 Internship I: Early Childhood (2)

Teaching half day for one half of a school year in a paid internship under an approved Montessori trained teacher, observation by a college supervisor, and regular monthly seminars. Prerequisite: The majority of the academic coursework must have been completed. Requires consent of the Coordinator.

MONT 330 Internship II: Early Childhood (2)

As in MONT 320, teaching half-day for one half of a school year in the same paid internship under an approved Montessori-trained teacher, observation by college supervisor, and regular monthly seminars. Prerequisite: Successful completion of MONT 320.

Montessori Elementary Courses

MONT 223 Technology in the Classroom (1)

The purpose of this course is to prepare candidates to utilize technology appropriately and effectively in education. Candidates gain a foundational understanding of computer hardware, software, and the Internet; evaluating and selecting technology resources; and utilizing basic productively application; and the World Wide Web. Best practices for integrating technology into classroom teaching are also addressed. The electronic portfolio is also introduced.

MONT 263 Elementary Mathematics I (3)

This course introduces the function and use of Montessori mathematical materials utilized in the elementary classroom. Students learn subject matter pedagogy, instructional methods, and techniques for adapting and extending materials to accommodate children with different learning styles and needs. Topics include numeration, multiplication, division, fractions, decimal fractions, squaring and cubing, square root and cube root. The integration of mathematics with other curriculum areas is examined.

MONT 264 Elementary Language, Reading and Writing (3)

At the elementary level, basic reading skills become a tool with which the child can begin to understand the environment. These skills are improved through interpretive readings, composition writing, grammar, and sentence analysis. The purpose of this course is to explain and demonstrate the Montessori language materials for the 6 to 12 year old child. Students are presented techniques for presenting oral language, reading and writing, literature appreciation, library/reference and research skills, etc. The integration of reading and language arts with other curriculum areas is highlighted.

MONT 265 Elementary Foundations (2)

This course includes lectures, presentation of materials, and discussion of the philosophical and theoretical foundations of Montessori education for the elementary-aged child. Students are introduced to the social development and psychological characteristics of the 6 to 12 year old child, and the relationship of these characteristics to the design of the Montessori elementary curriculum and classroom environment.

Curriculum and materials for teaching history to the elementary-age child (including pre-history, natural history, and cultural history) will be presented.

MONT 266 Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)

Natural and social sciences are introduced from a historical perspective to reveal their interrelationships and the interconnectedness of our universe. Students will learn to present the Montessori elementary science curriculum and materials using story, demonstrations, experiments, and imagination to assist children in understanding the world in which they live. Physical and political geography, biology, and ecology are emphasized.

MONT 267 Creative Arts I (1)

Integrating musical experiences, including increasing auditory awareness and discrimination, and rhythmic movement activities into the total environment. Cross-listed as ECE 167/267.

MONT 268 Creative Arts II (1)

Application of Montessori philosophy and methodology to visual, graphic, and manipulative art experiences. Facilitation of creative exploration using a wide variety of media.

MONT 269 Elementary Mathematics II (2)

This course introduces the function and use of Montessori geometry and mathematical materials utilized in the elementary classroom. Students learn subject matter pedagogy, instructional methods, and techniques for adapting and extending materials to accommodate children with different learning styles and needs. Topics include non-decimal bases, negative numbers, ratio and proportion, algebra, equivalence, area, solid geometry, etc. The integration of geometry and mathematics with other curriculum areas is examined.

MONT 270 Integration and Personal Assessment (2)

Completion of academic requirements and individual contributions to class albums. Demonstrations of all competencies by examination, self-assessment, giving and receiving feedback. Prerequisite: Successful completion of Montessori elementary curriculum coursework, practicum experience, and consent of the instructor.

MONT 411 Field Observation and Seminars I (1)

MONT 412 Field Observation and Seminars II (1)

In this course students observe in various Montessori elementary classrooms to increase awareness of alternatives in implementation and develop skills and techniques of observation and descriptive, analytical reporting. Objective, non-judgmental observation and interpretation are emphasized. Fieldwork and seminar attendance required.

MONT 420 Practicum I (2)

MONT 430 Practicum II (2)

The practicum lasts an entire academic year to enable the student to see how a classroom and children grow and develop over an extended period of time. Monthly seminars address professional standards, assessment and record keeping methods, classroom management techniques, equity issues, parental involvement, etc. For Experienced Full-time Teachers: A self-directed practicum may be arranged with prior approval from the Coordinator and documentation of successful appropriate classroom experience. Prerequisites: The majority of the concentration coursework must be completed before enrolling in the practicum phase of the program. The Program Director's approval is required.

MONT 599 Montessori Seminar (3)

Candidates prepare a teaching presentation based on Montessori principles and best practice that is approved by an advisor. This teaching presentation illustrates an original teaching unit or area of study (including extensions) developed by the candidate. Based on classroom experience, the candidate demonstrates effective teaching practices, competencies in curriculum development, student assessment, behavior management strategies, and understanding of educational psychological principles. Final assessment and evaluation of the candidate's integration of concepts culminates during a formal Oral Examination. A written rationale and synthesis of relevant research is submitted in support of the oral examination. Prerequisites: Successful completion of M.Ed. curriculum course work, field experience in the area of specialization, and consent of the coordinator.