

## **Montessori Education**

### **FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

#### **WHO IS MARIA MONTESSORI?**

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.

#### **WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE PROGRAM?**

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.

#### **IS THIS PROGRAM ACCREDITED?**

The Montessori Teacher Education Program is affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS) and is accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) and the Western Association of Schools and Colleges (WASC).

#### **IS THE MONTESSORI METHOD JUST FOR PRESCHOOLERS?**

Not at all. The Montessori training is organized according to children’s developmental levels: Birth to Three Years covers infants and toddlers. Three to Six years is for preschoolers and Kindergarteners. Six to Nine Years for lower elementary and Nine to Twelve for Upper Elementary. Here at Saint Mary’s we offer Three to Six, also known as early childhood training and Elementary I and II training which covers all the elementary years from six to twelve.

#### **HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?**

Most people take 2 years to complete the Montessori certificate and if they have a bachelor’s degree they do 2 more classes the following year and a culminating project to receive a master’s degree. Occasionally candidates will choose to go faster or, more often, slower.

## **HOW MANY UNITS ARE REQUIRED?**

The Early Childhood Program is 28 units and the Elementary I-II Program is 32 units. The first year of each program is spent attending classes. In the second year students do a paid internship or student teaching at the school of their choice.

## **HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?**

Current tuition rates can be found on the SMC website at [www.stmarys-ca.edu/soe](http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/soe) under "Admissions". However, the college recognizes and respects the important work of preschool teachers and those who work in the private sector. Therefore, the tuition at our Berkeley cohort at Global Montessori International School is discounted at nearly half the cost of regular tuition. Financial Aid is also available.

## **I WORK FULL TIME. WHEN ARE CLASSES SCHEDULED?**

Almost all of the students in the program work full time so our classes are scheduled for evenings and a few Saturdays each semester. Students can expect to be in class 2 night per week.

## **WHERE DO I GO TO GET OTHER QUESTIONS ANSWERED?**

Patricia Chambers, the Program Director, is happy to answer your questions and help you get started; [pchamber@stmarys-ca.edu](mailto:pchamber@stmarys-ca.edu) or phone her at 925-631-4036