Early Childhood Education

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT GRADUATE DEGREES DO YOU OFFER IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION?
We offer the Masters of Arts Degree in Early Childhood with an emphasis Supervision and Leadership

We also offer:
• The American Montessori Society Early Childhood Credential
• The American Montessori Society Elementary Education Credential
• Master of Arts in Montessori Education

Please refer to the Montessori Education page for further information about the Montessori programs.

DO I NEED TO TAKE THE CBEST OR THE CSET FOR THESE PROGRAMS?
No, those are state mandated tests for people entering multiple subjects programs.

WHAT IS THE MISSION OF THE PROGRAM?
The mission of the Early Childhood Education Program is to prepare caring and competent teachers and administrators to work with a diverse population of children and their families in a variety of early childhood settings serving children from age birth through 8 years old. The program also prepares students for leadership roles in Early Childhood Education (ECE) teacher training and parent education programs; leaders who affirm and promote the essential goodness, dignity and freedom of all people.

TELL ME ABOUT THE SPECIALIZATION IN SUPERVISION AND LEADERSHIP.
The Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education with a specialization in Supervision and Leadership is open to students who have at least two years of teaching experience. The program prepares candidates to assume leadership positions, such as program coordinators, public agency coordinators, college instructors and site supervisors. Graduates of this master's degree program are qualified to apply for the highest levels of the California Child Development Permit: “Site Supervisor and Program Coordinator.”

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?
Most people take two years to complete a master’s degree. Occasionally candidates will choose to go faster or, more often, slower.

HOW MANY UNITS ARE REQUIRED?
The Master of Arts in Early Childhood consists of (30) units.
MAY I TRANSFER CREDITS FROM ANOTHER INSTITUTION?
Yes, some credits may be transferred and some classes may be challenged depending on experience and classes taken at an accredited institution. Eligibility is determined by the Program Coordinator.

HOW MUCH DOES THE PROGRAM COST?
Current tuition rates can be found on the SMC website at http://www.stmarys-ca.edu/kalmanovitz-school-of-education/prospective-applicants/tuition-fees. The college recognizes and respects the important work of preschool teachers and those who work in the private sector. Therefore, some of the courses which are conducted at the Montessori American International School in Berkeley have a discounted tuition at nearly half the regular cost. 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 two nights per week.

WHERE DO I GO TO GET OTHER QUESTIONS ANSWERED?
Patricia Chambers, the Program Coordinator, is happy to answer your questions and help you get started; pchamber@stmarys-ca.edu or phone her at 925-631-4036