

MONTESSORI EDUCATION

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

WHAT CREDENTIALS AND DEGREES DO YOU OFFER?

We offer the following credentials and degrees:

- American Montessori Society Early Childhood Credential
- American Montessori Society Elementary Education Credential
- Master of Arts Degree in Montessori Education with an emphasis in either of the concentrations below
 - Montessori Early Childhood Education
 - Montessori Elementary Education
- Masters of Arts Degree in Early Childhood with an emphasis in Supervision and Leadership
- Liberal and Civic Studies Minor: Montessori Thought (Undergrad)

WHO IS MARIA MONTESSORI?

Maria Montessori (1870 – 1952), was a physician, social activist, developmental scientist, and educator. Her enduring educational philosophy 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.

DO I NEED TO TAKE THE CBEST OR THE CSET FOR THE MONTESSORI PROGRAM?

No, those are state mandated tests for people entering multiple subjects programs. Your Montessori credential is an international credential and is not subject to state requirements.

HOW LONG DOES IT TAKE TO COMPLETE THE PROGRAM?

Most people take 2 years to complete the Montessori credential and another year for 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 29 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 <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, the tuition for the Montessori program is deeply discounted from regular tuition. Financial Aid is also available.

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 Director.

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 one or 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