The enduring educational philosophy of Maria Montessori (1870 - 1952), physician, social activist, developmental scientist, and educator, embraces constructivist principles and aims to educate the "whole child". Montessori’s guiding consideration of respect for the individuality of each child and her commitment to social justice is timeless. Montessori was nominated three times for the Noble Peace Prize for her work in education.

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 and Civic Studies Minor: Montessori Thought
- American Montessori Society Early Childhood Credential
- American Montessori Society Elementary Education Credential
- Master of Arts
  - Montessori Early Childhood Education
  - Montessori Elementary Education
- Master of Education Degree in Montessori Education
- Master of Education Degree in Applied Developmental Education
  - Early Childhood Emphasis
  - Elementary Education Emphasis

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 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 Credential and a Master's degree in Montessori Education.

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

In addition to the general liberal studies requirements of EDUC 119 and EDUC 144 (Cognitive Development), the Minor requires three courses and a .5 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 - Montessori Philosophy in a Cultural Context (1)
ECE 163 - Mathematics: Conceptual Learning (1)
ECE 164 - Language and Reading Development (1)
Possible Electives (.5 credits only)
MONT 111 - Field Observation & Seminar I (.25)
MONT 112 - Field Observation & Seminar II (.25)
ECE 131 - Positive Discipline and Classroom Management (.5)
ECE 159 - Practical Life Curriculum (.5)
ECE 160 - Conceptual Curriculum (Sensorial) (.5)
ECE 166 - Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (1)
ECE 167 - Creative Arts I (.25)
ECE 168 - Creative Arts II (.25)

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

Montessori Early Childhood (2.5 through 6 years old) Credential Program (29 units)
Specialization Courses (23 units)
MONT 210 - Learning and Development (3)
MONT 261 - Montessori Philosophy in a Cultural Context (3)
ECE 231 - Positive Discipline and Classroom Management (2)
ECE 259 - Practical Life Curriculum (2)
ECE 260 - Conceptual Curriculum (2)
ECE 263 - Mathematics: Conceptual Learning (3)
ECE 264 - Reading and Reading Development (3)
ECE 266 - Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)
ECE 267 - Creative Arts I (1)
ECE 268 - Creative Arts II (1)

Field Experiences (6 units)
MONT 311 - Field Observation & Seminar I (1)
MONT 312 - Field Observation & Seminar II (1)
MONT 320 - Internship I: Early Childhood (2)
MONT 330 - Internship II: Early Childhood (2)

American Montessori Society Elementary (6 through 12 years old) Education Credential (32-34 units)
Prerequisite (2 units)
For those students who have not received a Montessori Early Childhood Credential
MONT 287 - Montessori Overview (2)

Specialization Courses (26 units)
MONT 210 - Learning and Development (3)
MONT 261 - Montessori Philosophy in a Cultural Context (3)
MONT 263 - Elementary Mathematics I (3)
MONT 264 - Elementary Language, Reading and Writing (3)
MONT 265 - Elementary Foundations (2)
MONT 266 - Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)
MONT 267 - Creative Arts I (1)  
MONT 268 - Creative Arts II (1)  
MONT 269 - Elementary Mathematics II (2)  
MONT 270 - Integration and Personal Assessment (2)  
MONT 223 - Technology in the Classroom (1)  
ECE 231 - Positive Discipline and Classroom Management (2)  

Field Experiences (6 units)  
MONT 411 - Field Observation and Seminars I (1)  
MONT 412 - Field Observation and Seminars II (1)  
MONT 420 - Practicum I (2)  
MONT 430 - Practicum II (2)  

Master of Arts in 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 Credential. Upon completion of the AMS ECE Credential, students may be qualified to apply for a California Child Development Permit through the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing. Students interested in this degree will take the following additional courses:  

Montessori Early Childhood Credential Program (29 units)  
Research Courses (9 units)  
EDUC 572 - Research Seminar I (Methodology and review of educational research) (3)  
EDUC 582 - Research Seminar II (Proposal) (3)  
EDUC 592 - Thesis or Education 597 Synthesis Project (3)  

Note. Passing of the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) is required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and is a prerequisite to EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass 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 through 12, is built upon and includes the completion of the American Montessori Society Elementary Education Credential. Students interested in this degree will take the following additional courses:  

Montessori Elementary Credential Program (32-34 units)  
Research Courses (9 units)  
EDUC 572 - Research Seminar I (Methodology and review of educational research) (3)  
EDUC 582 - Research Seminar II (Proposal) (3)  
EDUC 592 - Thesis or Education 597 Synthesis Project (3)  

Note. Passing of the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) is required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and is a prerequisite to EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass 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 the AMS Montessori ECE Credential (29-32 units) or the AMS Montessori Elementary Education Credential (32-34 units) completed at Saint Mary’s College, Kalmanovitz School of Education.
Specialization Courses for Students with the Credential in Montessori Early Childhood Education (11 units)
MONT 263 - Elementary Mathematics I (3)
MONT 264 - Elementary Language, Reading and Writing (3)
MONT 265 - Elementary Foundations (2)
MONT 266 - Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)

Specialization Courses for Students with the Credential in Montessori Elementary Education (13 units)
ECE 263 - Mathematics: Conceptual Learning (3) (Prerequisite: ECE 165/265)
ECE 264 - Language and Reading Development (3)
ECE 259 - Practical Life Curriculum (2)
ECE 260 - Conceptual Curriculum (2)
ECE 266 - Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)

Research Courses (7 units)
EDUC 572 - Research Seminar I (Methodology and review of educational research) (3)
EDUC 582 - Research Seminar II (Proposal) (3)
MONT 599 - Montessori Seminar (1)

Note. Passing of the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) is required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and is a prerequisite to EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass 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 Subject or Special Education) completed at Saint Mary’s College School of Education. Candidates complete core Montessori courses and specialize in Early Childhood or Elementary Education. An AMS Early Childhood or Elementary credential may be obtained with additional coursework.

Early Childhood Emphasis
Concentration Courses: Choose 2 of the following classes (6 units)
MONT 261 - Montessori Philosophy in a Cultural Context (3)
ECE 263 - Mathematics: Conceptual Learning (3)
ECE 264 - Language and Reading Development (3)
ECE 266 - Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)

Research Courses (9 units)
EDUC 572 - Research Seminar I (Methodology and review of educational research) (3)
EDUC 582 - Research Seminar II (Proposal) (3)
EDUC 592 - Thesis or Education 597 Synthesis Project (3)

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

Elementary Emphasis
Concentration Courses: Choose 2 of the following classes (6 units)
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 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, 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 of Early Childhood Pedagogy (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.

MONT 111/311 Field Observation & Seminar I (1)
MONT 112/312 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)
MONT 330 Internship II: 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 Program Director.

Note. Passing of the Writing Proficiency Exam (WPE) is required for unconditional acceptance to this graduate degree program and is a prerequisite to EDUC 572 (Research Seminar I). Therefore, all masters degree students are advised to pass the WPE in the first semester of their graduate coursework.
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 productive application; and the World Wide Web. Best practices for integrating technology into classroom teaching are also addressed. The electronic portfolio is 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.

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 paid practicum lasts an 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 Program Director 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 coursework, field experience in the area of specialization, and consent of the Program Director.

**MONTESSORI EARLY CHILDHOOD COURSES**

**ECE 131/231 Positive Discipline and Classroom Management (2)**
Understanding and implementing positive techniques leading to self-discipline on the part of the child. Introduction to professional responsibilities and classroom management techniques based on Montessori philosophy, Jane Nelsen, Alfie Kohn and others.

**ECE 163/263 Mathematics: Conceptual Learning (3)**
Montessori mathematical materials, their function, and use in the child’s learning experience with emphasis on conceptual learning through self-discovery. Progression from the concrete to the abstract with comparison to current mathematical methodologies. Relating the materials to their theoretical structures and the development of logical mathematical thought.
ECE 164/264 Language and Reading Development (3)
Theories of language acquisition and development of oral and symbolic language and the integration of reading theories with contemporary educational thought. Comprehensive review including the use of the language experience approach. Phonics and linguistic approaches to the development of pre-reading, reading, and writing skills and the role of multicultural literature in promoting inclusive classrooms. (Emphasis on writing-to-read progression.) Montessori language materials, their function and use in child learning experience.

ECE 166/266 Study of the Sciences: Natural, Physical, and Social (3)
An integration of Montessori curriculum areas within the study of the natural and social sciences: physical and political geography, geology, physics, astronomy, history, peoples of the world, zoology, and botany. Multicultural and ecological issues are emphasized within the context of the inter-relatedness of all of life.

ECE 167/267 Creative Arts I (1)
Integrating musical experiences, including increasing auditory awareness and discrimination, and rhythmic movement activities into the total environment.

ECE 168/268 Creative Arts II (1)
Facilitation of children's creative explorations in visual, graphic and manipulative art experiences using a wide variety of media. Includes application of Montessori philosophy and methodology to the art curriculum.

ECE 259 Practical Life Curriculum (2)
Understanding the philosophical and theoretical foundations of the Montessori practical life curriculum and its relation to fostering independence, responsibility, and self-esteem, preparing the environment and creating materials. The value of task analysis in creating curriculum is emphasized.

ECE 260 Conceptual Curriculum (2)
Understanding the philosophical and theoretical foundations of sensorial, concrete experiential learning using the Montessori sensorial curriculum. Providing keys to the understanding of concepts through the use of concrete representations of abstractions.