

MECA Program Schedules

2009-2010 Teacher Preparation Course Schedule (Infant-Toddler, Early Childhood, Combined)

PHASE I – INTERVIEW

Call for an appointment.

PHASE II – ORIENTATION & INDEPENDENT STUDY

Orientation meetings are available on a monthly basis and may be scheduled as soon as a student has completed their interview. Since orientation introduces the student to a sequence of independent study assignments designed to lay a foundation for academics, we recommend that you schedule your orientation early enough to allow yourself time for these assignments before the start of Phase III. Orientation must take place prior to attendance at academics.

PHASE III – BEGINNING ACADEMICS**

Spring 2009 Dates*

Infant-Toddler

April 3,4,5
April 17,18,19
April 24,25,26
June 30 – July 22

Early Childhood

April 3,4,5
April 17,18,19
April 24,25,26
May 1,2,3
May 7,8,9
May 14,15,16,17
July 14-24

Summer 2009 Dates*

Infant-Toddler

June 16 – July 22

Early Childhood

June 16 – July 24

*Dates to be confirmed one month before course begins.

**Candidates for the combination courses may start in either the Infant-Toddler or the Early Childhood program. When they are ready for the second course they will follow the specifics of the age group. The same applies for candidates who already have a Montessori credential.

***We encourage you to apply by the priority deadline, so that we can give your application priority consideration. We will continue to accept applications after the priority deadline if space is available in the program. **We strongly encourage you to apply before the published deadline.**

PHASE IV – PRACTICUM

For both Infant-Toddler and Early Childhood:

Nine consecutive months at an approved school selected by the student teacher and approved by the course director.

PHASE V – CONTINUED ACADEMIC SEMINARS

Infant-Toddler

Two Seminars, four days each

November 5-8, 2009*

March 26-29, 2010*

Early Childhood

Four Seminars

October 9-14, 2009*

November 6-9, 2009*

March 27-30, 2010*

Last Seminar: Choice of April, July or November 2010

PHASE VI – POSTGRADUATE SEMINAR

November 2010

Your work must be finished by July 2012. MECA also gives an AMS Montessori Administrator Credential. For more information call 630-654-0151.

APPLICATION DEADLINE***

Spring Course: March 2, 2009

Summer Course: May 1, 2009

EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAM

\$5,895 Tuition Fee *plus* **\$250** AMS Certification Fee

Schedule:

With application: \$400

Phase II Orientation: \$2,000

Plan 1:

One payment of \$3,495 + \$250 AMS Fee

Due first day of Phase III.

Plan 2:

Two payments of \$1,748

First installment due first day of Phase III.

Second installment due based on Spring/Summer schedule.

Plan 3:*

Five payments of \$709[†]

First installment due first day of Phase III.

Plan 4:**

Ten payments of \$359[†]

First installment due first day of Phase III.

INFANT-TODDLER PROGRAM

\$5,085 Tuition Fee *plus* **\$250** AMS Certification Fee

Schedule:

With application: \$300

Phase II Orientation: \$1,700

Plan 1:

One payment of \$3,085 + \$250 AMS Fee

Due first day of Phase III.

Plan 2:

Two payments of \$1,542

First installment due first day of Phase III.

Second installment due based on Spring/Summer schedule.

Plan 3:*

Five payments of \$627[†]

First installment due first day of Phase III.

Plan 4:**

Ten payments of \$318[†]

First installment due first day of Phase III.

ADMINISTRATOR PROGRAM – MODEL 1

For those **without** AMS Teacher Certification.

\$6,500 Tuition Fee *plus* **\$250** AMS Certification Fee

Schedule:

With application: \$500

Phase II Orientation: \$1,000 + \$250 AMS Fee

Phase IV Practicum: \$2000

Phase II, III, V: \$3,000 (by plan chosen)

Plan 1:

Two payments of \$1,500

First installment due first day of Phase III.

Second installment due last day of Phase III.

Plan 2:*

Five payments of \$610[†]

First installment due first day of Phase III.

Plan 3:**

Ten payments of \$310[†]

First installment due first day of Phase III.

ADMINISTRATOR PROGRAM – MODEL 2

For those **with** AMS Teacher Certification.

\$3,500 Tuition Fee *plus* **\$250** AMS Administrator Certification Fee

Schedule:

With application: \$500

Phase II Orientation: \$1,000 + \$250

Phase IV Practicum: \$2000

REFUND POLICY

If an applicant is not accepted, the full deposit is refunded. If an applicant withdraws before Phase II, \$100 will not be refunded. NO REFUNDS will be made after Phase II has been completed.

*An additional \$50 tuition charge included.

**An additional \$100 tuition charge included.

[†]For Payment Plans 3 & 4 all payments must be made on or before the first of the month. If delinquent, a charge of 1 1/2% per month will be added.

What are the prerequisites for the AMS credential programs?

Students must have a minimum formal education of a high school diploma or equivalent. Preference is given to those with a bachelor's degree. The student comes for an initial interview prior to acceptance in the program, and must also provide MECA with three references and high school or college transcripts.

How long does it take to complete the AMS credential programs?

The program can be completed in a minimum of one year, but students are given up to three years to meet all requirements. After three years a late completion fee would apply.

My degree and/or experience is not in education. May I still apply?

Yes. Everything you need to become a Montessori educator will be given to you as part of the program.

What is the difference between the spring and summer programs? Is one more intense than the other?

The content of both programs is the same. We offer two scheduling options for our students, with full day classes for both. With summer classes you have five consecutive days of classes, where the spring option offers three days consecutively.

I'd like to take your course but it may not fit my budget. What can I do?

In addition to the American Montessori Society and Elgin Community College scholarships that are available, many schools will sponsor students for our program. This can be done in the form of a loan or scholarship. In exchange for this assistance, schools normally ask a student to sign an agreement to work for the school for a specified period following certification.

Is there financial aid or scholarships available from MECA?

Each year MECA awards a very limited number of partial scholarships to applicants who wish to complete their student teaching experiences in one of our lab schools.

What is the difference between MECA programs and other teacher preparation courses?

MECA's teacher preparation program is one of the oldest AMS courses established in North America. Our staff is international in their outlook, faithful to Maria Montessori's insights, and current with the latest research. We have two lab schools available to our students as a resource for learning and observation. We have a team of highly educated and experienced lecturers, specializing in various areas. We serve students across the U.S. and abroad and visit them at their practicum sites throughout their education period. Our programs offer flexibility and a staff ready to assist in any area.

Do you offer student visas for foreign students?

We can help foreign students to apply for student (F-1) visas, provided they meet federal eligibility requirements. Although we cannot guarantee they will be approved, we have been very successful in the past.

PHASES FOR INFANT-TODDLER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

Phase I: An in-depth personal interview

Phase II: A small-group or individual orientation that introduces preparatory assignment work

Phase III: Beginning academics offered twice annually in a weekend format in the Spring and a weekday format during the Summer

Phase IV: A nine-month supervised practicum

Phase V: A sequence of continuing academic seminars that give support during what is typically the practicum year

Phase VI: A postgraduate seminar that encourages students to begin the habit of participating in regular continuing education.

INFANT AND TODDLER AMS TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM (MACTE ACCREDITED)

This course content focuses on the characteristics and needs of the very youngest children and the special personal preparation needed by those who work with infants, toddlers and their families. The course is organized into six successive phases.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AMS TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM (MACTE ACCREDITED)

MECA's personalized, adult-oriented program prepares students as competent, reflective Early Childhood Montessori Educators. The program offers a deep philosophical base, balanced with an effective and complete immersion in techniques and materials.

MONTESSORI AMS ADMINISTRATORS CREDENTIAL PROGRAM

The Administrators Program includes an extensive lecture series, treating such topics as: establishing a children's house, working with different kinds of boards, environmental design, advertising and recruiting, staff management, school budgets and accounting, school community building, and accreditation.

The AMS Certification program is designed to serve participants with or without previous Montessori credentials. The program is current with the newest practices and techniques in all aspects of school administration and highlights the specialized needs of leading a Montessori Community.

PARAPROFESSIONAL PREPARATION PROGRAM

MECA's Paraprofessional Course provides a broad foundation in Montessori philosophy, educational techniques and classroom practice, geared for those who are involved with young children at home or professionally. Many successful Montessori administrators, board members, classroom assistants and parents have increased their understanding and strengthened their effectiveness through the course. For others, the course has been a stepping-stone in deciding to pursue full teaching certification. The Paraprofessional course is offered several times throughout the year.

CONTINUING DEVELOPMENT PROGRAM

Twice each year, the Fall and in the Spring, MECA offers large weekend seminars for continuing development, in conjunction with the American Montessori Society. The aim of these continuing development seminars is to focus on special topics of interest to Montessori practitioners and other early childhood educators, bringing the best insights and resources currently available. There are also smaller workshops offered on an ongoing basis for teacher and administrator professional development.

Date _____

Which program are you interested in applying for?: Infant-Toddler Credential Early Childhood Credential
 Combined Credential Administrators Credential

PERSONAL INFORMATION

First Name	Last Name	M.I.	Maiden Name
Home Address	City	ST	Zip
Mailing Address	City	ST	Zip
Email Address	Home Phone	Mobile Phone	
Place of Birth	Birth Date MM/DD/YY	Citizenship	
Work Address	City	ST	Zip
Work Phone			
Marital Status	Spouse Name	Spouse Occupation	
Children's Name/Age			

EDUCATION

Secondary School	Location	Dates Attended
Major	Minor	Type of Degree Completed
College	Location	Dates Attended
Major	Minor	Type of Degree Completed
Graduate School	Location	Dates Attended
Major	Minor	Type of Degree Completed
State Certification	State(s)	Type
Title of Certification	Issuing Agency	Date of Expiration

Non-Discrimination Statement

It is the policy of Montessori Education Centers Associated not to discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, age or veteran status in matters of admissions, employment, or services or in the educational programs it operates, in accordance with civil rights legislation and institutional commitment.

Admission Deadlines

We have priority admission deadlines for the following programs, and admission decisions are made on a rolling basis. We will continue to accept applications after the priority deadlines if space is available.

March 1, 2008: Spring Infant-Toddler and Early Childhood Credential Programs

May 1, 2008: Summer Infant-Toddler and Early Childhood Credential Programs

(Continued on reverse)

MONTESSORI PREPARATION

AMS Other Name of Course _____

Location _____ Level _____ Dates Attended _____

Teaching Experience (within what setting)?

Infant-Toddler or Early Childhood experience (if any). Please describe.

Why do you want to be a Montessori educator?

How did you learn about this teacher education program?

What are your plans when you have received your credential?

DOCUMENTATION

A transcript of my college credits: is enclosed is on file is being sent

If applicable, a copy of my Montessori diploma: is enclosed is being sent

A check for my application deposit is enclosed in the amount of:

- \$400 for Early Childhood Credential*
- \$300 for Infant-Toddler Credential*
- \$400 for Combined Credential*
- \$500 for Administrators Credential**

This application will not be processed unless accompanied with payment. Please make all checks payable to MECA. Applications are dated upon receipt and are acted upon in this order. Enrollment is limited. You will be called for an interview as soon as your application is processed. Please sign and date this application and mail with your deposit to:

Registrar: MECA-Seton
5728 Virginia Avenue
Clarendon Hills, IL 60514

*Note: \$100 of the application fee is non-refundable.
**\$400 of the application fee is non-refundable for the Administrators Credential.

Signature of Applicant Date