

M.A.C.T.E Early Childhood (2.5 through 6 years) Program

Total Duration: 1-3 years
Minimum of 600 Academic/Contact Hours

Courses (200+Hrs.):
Typical Range, 200-400+hrs

Practicum (400+hrs.)
Typical Range, 500-600+hrs

Course Overview:

Montessori Philosophy & Human Development

Topics:

Montessori History & Philosophy
Human Development
Theories of Child Development
Special Needs
Brain Development

Classroom Leadership & Program Management

Topics:

Classroom Management
Observation Techniques
Record Keeping
School Administration & Program Management
Self-Knowledge
Child Assessment

Curriculum Implementation:

Topics:

Practical Life Curriculum:
 Care of Self, Care of Environment,
 Grace & Courtesy/Social Behavior & Control of Movement
Sensorial Curriculum
Math Curriculum
Science Curriculum:
 Geography, Biology, Physical Science & History
Cultural Subjects
Language Curriculum
Art, Music and Perceptual Motor Development
Positive Discipline & Peace Education

Community Involvement & Partnership with Families

Topics:

Parent Education, Involvement & Support
Cultural Awareness
Conferences

Student Teaching & Observation

Practicum hours do not include, independent research, material making, album preparation and/or examinations.

Program Ties to Core Knowledge Categories:

Learning Environments & Curriculum
Human Growth & Development
Health, Safety & Nutrition
Observation & Assessment
Personal, Professional & Leadership Development
Families & Community Systems
Diversity
Program Management
Special Needs
Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Course Category: Montessori Philosophy and Pedagogy

Minimum course Topics: Biography of Dr. Maria Montessori; examination of Montessori's principles, ideology and philosophy with emphasis on Montessori's concept of child from ages 2.5 through 6 years of age; Scientific analysis of how to nurture and assist the unfolding of the human personality; care of physical and psychological needs through integrated, multi-disciplinary curriculum; environmental design; positive strategies, interaction and communication techniques with children; developmental observation, recordkeeping and assessment; adult role in environment; personal development of adult guide and caregiver.

Hours 45-75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, group process, reading assignments, observation and development as well as her implemented pedagogy for the primary aged child. Students shall demonstrate a gained confidence in applying methodology, guiding children and creating aesthetic Montessori classroom environments, display the appropriate scope and sequence of the Montessori curriculum. Adult learners shall continually demonstrate self-reflection and personal development within their practice.

Course Work Examples:

- > Reading & Reports from Montessori Literature
- > Reading & Reports from Historical Theories of Development
- > Child Development Study
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Album (Resource Manual)
- > Essay; written and/or oral quiz; multiple choice & short answer test
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluation Reports

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Human Growth and Development
- Learning Environments and Curriculum
- Personal, Professional & Leadership Development
- Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates an understanding of and implements Montessori philosophy with a focus on the early childhood years.
- b. Comprehends and utilizes an understanding of the stages of human growth, development and educational theories with an emphasis from two and one-half (2 1/2) through six (6) years of age.
- c. Demonstrates evidence of personal growth through self-evaluation and introspection.

- d. Demonstrates knowledge of developmental and behavioral norms and potential recommendations toward early intervention services.

Course Category: Human & Child Development

Minimum course Topics: Introduction to theories of child and human development referencing contemporary theorists (Montessori, Erikson, Dewey, Vygotsky, Piaget, Rousseau, Maslow, etc.) Introduction to typical and atypical cognitive, physical, social and emotional development for children ages birth through 12 years; examination of brain development and current neuroscience research as it relates to learning.

Hours 25-50+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, group process and discussion, students will learn about the various theories from major contemporary child and human developmental theorists to increase their personal awareness of the growth of each individual child from dependency through autonomy.

Course Work Examples:

- > Reading & Reports from Montessori Literature
- > Reading & Reports from Historical Theories of Development
- > Child Development Study
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Album (Resource Manual)
- > Essay; written and/or oral quiz; multiple choice & short answer test
- > Research Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluation Reports

Core Knowledge Categories: Human Growth and Development
Special Needs
Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates an understanding of major child and human development theories as well as how they historically and pedagogically relate to Montessori philosophy.
- b. Comprehends and utilizes an understanding of the stages of human growth, development and educational theories with an emphasis from two and one-half (2 1/2) through six (6) years of age.
- c. Demonstrates evidence of personal growth through self-evaluation and introspection.
- d. Demonstrates knowledge of developmental and behavioral norms and potential recommendations toward early intervention services.

Course Category: Classroom Leadership & Program Administration

Minimum course Topics: Classroom management techniques; Communication, observation, record-keeping, and assessment tools and techniques; Roles of adult caregivers; Assistant training; Introduction to the function of school administration through analyzing roles, policies and procedures; licensing requirements for center-based child-care as it relates to Montessori classrooms.

Hours: 25-45+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, group process and discussion, and classroom observations will provide adult learners with tools and techniques to further their knowledge of interpersonal communication with staff, classroom observation, record-keeping and assessment tools. Learners will be introduced to the components of managing a Montessori program and research the structure both physically and financially, of various types of Montessori schools: private, public, charter and magnet as well as how these school systems align with state and federal early childhood learning standards.

Course Work Examples:

- > Written Observation Reports from Montessori & Non-Montessori Classrooms
- > Creation of Administrative Album (Resource Material)

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Album (Resource Manual)
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluation Reports
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Observation and Assessment
- Diversity
- Personal, Professional & Leadership Development
- Program Management

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrate observation, documentation and analytical skills necessary for planning and recording the progress of children.
- b. Utilizes cultural sensitivity in support of the development of individual children.
- c. Demonstrates an ability to implement effective classroom strategies.
- d. Demonstrates leadership skills and an understanding of professional standards.
- e. Incorporates an understanding of administrative functions.

Course Category: **Community Involvement and Partnership with Families**

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of current research as it relates to cultural diversity; Self-reflection on cultural bias; Practices utilized when involving, supporting and educating parents in the Montessori method; techniques in listening and communicating effectively with parents and community; Preparation for parent conferences.

Hours 10-40+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, group process, classroom observation and discussion, adult learners will be presented with best practices for involving, supporting and educating parents and community members including parent events and conferences.

Course Work Examples:

- > Reading & Reports from current research & applicable literature
- > Classroom observation in Montessori environment
- > Conference, meeting and event role-play and/or presentation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Album (Resource Manual)
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluation Reports
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Diversity
- Families & Community Systems
- Personal, Professional & Leadership Development

Level of Content: Set One and Set Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates cultural sensitivity in communications and work with families and children.
- b. Demonstrates an awareness of community resources for additional support of children and families.
- c. Identifies and has an awareness of available professional associations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Practical Life

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of the practical life materials for children ages 2.5 through 6; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, independence, sense of order and muscle control.

Hours 35-75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the practical life curriculum sequence. Activities cover care of person, care of environment, fine and gross motor control as well as lessons in grace and courtesy.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Practical Life Curriculum Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Learning Environments & Curriculum
- Diversity
- Observation and Assessment
- Understanding & Guiding Behavior
- Health, Safety & Nutrition

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori practical life curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations
- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment in response to the needs of students.

- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.
- f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Art, Music & Perceptual Motor Development

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of how to incorporate art, music and perceptual motor development into the daily routine of the 2.5 through 6 year old environment; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, spacial awareness, auditory discrimination and muscle control.

Hours 15-35+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the art skills, music and perceptual motor development curriculum.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Art, Music, P.M.D Curriculum Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories: Learning Environments & Curriculum
Diversity
Observation and Assessment
Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori practical life curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations
- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment in response to the needs of students; growing collection of songs, artist information and movement games.
- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.

f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Sensorial

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of the sensorial materials for children ages 2.5 through 6; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, independence, sense of order, discernment of form, color, dimension and tactile sense as well as visual, auditory, gustatory and olfactory discrimination.

Hours 35+75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the sensorial curriculum sequence. Activities aim to isolate the development of the senses by challenging the child to discriminate geometric forms, colors, dimensions, shapes, textures, sounds, weights, temperatures, tastes and smells.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Sensorial Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Sensorial Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Learning Environments & Curriculum
- Diversity
- Observation and Assessment
- Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori sensorial curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations

- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment in response to the needs of students; growing collection of songs, artist information and movement games.
- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.
- f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Mathematics

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of the mathematics materials for children ages 2.5 through 6; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, independence, sense of order, exactness, muscle control, one to one correspondence and patterning.

Hours 35+75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the mathematics curriculum sequence. Activities cover one-to-one correspondence, numeration, linear counting, the decimal system (golden bead material), operations (addition, subtraction multiplication, division), memorization of facts, fractions, story problems, money and materials leading to abstraction.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Mathematics Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Mathematics Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Learning Environments & Curriculum
- Diversity
- Observation and Assessment
- Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori mathematics curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations

- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment in response to the needs of students; growing collection of songs, artist information and movement games.
- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.
- f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Science

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of the science materials for children ages 2.5 through 6; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, independence, sense of order, classification of the natural world and vocabulary expansion.

Hours 35+75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the science curriculum sequence. Activities cover lessons in history, geography, zoology, botany as well as physical science experiments.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Science Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Science Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories: Learning Environments & Curriculum
Diversity
Observation and Assessment
Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori Science curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations
- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment in response to the needs of students; growing collection of songs, artist information and movement games.

- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.
- f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Cultural Subjects

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of the cultural subjects materials for children ages 2.5 through 6; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, independence, interdependence, sense of wonder and vocabulary expansion.

Hours 35+75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the cultural studies curriculum sequence. Activities cover lessons in care of the living world, cosmic awareness, cultural traditions as well as lessons in cultural diversity and peaceful negotiation.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Cultural Subjects Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Cultural Subjects Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories: Learning Environments & Curriculum
Diversity
Observation and Assessment
Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori Cultural Subjects curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations
- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment in response to the needs of students; growing collection of songs, artist

information and movement games.

- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.
- f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Curriculum Implementation: Language

Minimum course Topics: Presentation of the comprehensive 3-year, scope and sequence of the language materials for children ages 2.5 through 6; Scientific analysis of material goals for children in concentration, coordination, independence, left to right orientation, auditory and visual discrimination, expressive and receptive vocabulary expansion as well as fine motor control.

Hours 35+75+hrs

Course Description: Through lecture, material presentations, group process and discussion, as well as supervised practice with materials, adult learners discover the appropriate age, direct aim, indirect aim and precise presentation of the language curriculum sequence. Activities cover lessons language reception, expression, articulation, phonetics, oral traditions, story-telling, basic reading, grammar and writing.

Course Work Examples:

- > Creation of Language Album (Resource Manual)
- > Practice presenting material lessons
- > Material-Making
- > Rationale Paper
- > Classroom Observation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Class participation and note taking
- > Completion and Review of Language Album (Resource Manual)
- > Oral and Written Exam
- > Evaluation of Material Presentations
- > Rationale Paper
- > Minimum of 3 Field Supervision Evaluations during Practicum Phase
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Learning Environments & Curriculum
- Diversity
- Observation and Assessment
- Understanding & Guiding Behavior

Level of Content: Set One and Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates the principles of Montessori environmental and material design
- b. Articulates the rationale and sequence of the Montessori Language curriculum.
- c. Demonstrates proficiency in applying Montessori principles in the context of the curriculum, didactic materials and lesson presentations
- d. Designs and maintains a developmentally appropriate Montessori environment

in response to the needs of students; growing collection of songs, artist information and movement games.

- e. Utilizes a variety of instructional strategies and assessment methods.
- f. Demonstrates an awareness and understanding of governmental regulations.

Course Category: Practicum

Minimum course Topics: The Practicum (student teaching) experience provides the adult learner with a minimum of 400 combined hours of supervised practice teaching, classroom observation, internalization of methodology and further study to best bring together Montessori educational theory and practice. The learner will participate in all facets of the 2.5 through 6 year old environment including, but not limited to environmental design, ongoing curriculum planning, material presentations, record-keeping, observation, family communication and administrative policies and procedures.

Hours 400-600+hrs

Course Work Examples:

- > Field Observations in 2.5 through 6 year old Montessori classrooms
- > Meetings with Supervising teacher
- > Observation Notes and Record-Keeping
- > Self-Reflection, Introspection and Self-Evaluation

Competencies/Assessment:

- > Notes & Reports from 3-6 Field Supervisor Observations
- > Review of classroom observation notes and record-keeping
- > Reflective Essays
- > Log of completed Practicum Hours
- > Final Oral and Written Exam

Core Knowledge Categories:

- Observation and Assessment
- Learning Environments and Curriculum
- Personal, Professional & Leadership Development
- Health, Safety and Nutrition
- Families & Community Systems
- Understanding & Guiding Behavior
- Diversity

Level of Content: Set Two

Course Outcomes:

- a. Demonstrates an understanding of and implements Montessori philosophy with a focus on the early childhood years.
- b. Comprehends and utilizes an understanding of the stages of human growth, development and educational theories with an emphasis from two and one-half (2 1/2) through six (6) years of age.
- c. Demonstrates evidence of personal growth through self-evaluation and introspection; refined observation and assessment skills.
- d. Demonstrates knowledge of developmental and behavioral norms and potential recommendations toward early intervention services.