



CHESTNUT
HILL
COLLEGE

School of Graduate Studies

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS:

MONTESSORI TEACHER EDUCATION PROGRAM



1 WHAT ARE THE PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS?

The Montessori program, which leads to a Montessori Early Childhood credential, consists of seven courses plus a year-long internship with a year-long seminar course. Courses include Montessori Philosophy and Theory, Montessori Everyday Living, Montessori Sensorial/Music, Montessori Math, Montessori Language, Montessori Natural and Social Science and Montessori Education for Peace. A course in Child Development must be completed, if you have not already taken such a college course.

2 HOW QUICKLY CAN I FINISH THE PROGRAM AND RECEIVE MY CREDENTIAL?

A student can complete the Montessori Early Childhood program within a two year period. In the first year, courses are taken in the fall, spring and summer terms. The second year involves a year-long student teaching Practicum, (approximately 9 · months), in an approved Montessori school along with some course work including a seminar. Some students prefer to complete the program in a three year period.

3 CAN I EARN A MASTER'S DEGREE ALONG WITH A MONTESSORI CREDENTIAL?

Yes. If you enter the program as a graduate student and complete this Montessori program, you will earn 29 graduate credits that can be applied toward a Master's Degree in Early Education at Chestnut Hill College. You will need to complete three more graduate level courses (9 credits) beyond the 29 credits to earn a Master's Degree; courses may be taken simultaneously with the Montessori credential courses. The Master's Degree with Montessori credential can be completed in two years.

4 MAY I TAKE THE TRAINING IF I DO NOT HAVE A BACHELOR'S DEGREE?

Yes. Those without a Bachelor's Degree may take the courses for non-college credit or for undergraduate credit. Those who would like to pursue a Bachelor's Degree should apply to the School of Continuing and Professional Studies, www.chc.edu/scpsvisit. With approval, some Montessori courses may be taken for undergraduate credit. Those who wish to take the Montessori courses for non-college credit can do so and still earn an American Montessori Society Early Childhood credential.

5 DO I HAVE TO WORK TOWARD A DEGREE OR CAN I JUST TAKE THE MONTESSORI COURSES TO EARN A MONTESSORI EARLY CHILDHOOD CREDENTIAL?

You need not work toward a degree. You can opt to take the courses for non-college credit and still receive the American Montessori Society Early Childhood credential. Course requirements are basically the same for both credit and non-credit courses. However, once you complete a course for non-credit, you cannot have it reversed for credit.

6 WHERE CAN I TEACH WITH THIS CREDENTIAL?

An American Montessori Society credential certifies you to teach in any private Montessori school with children ages 3 to 6 years old. However, in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, you must have at least 24 college credits in early childhood education to teach in a private school. Montessori courses taken for college credit would count toward these 24 credits.

To teach in a public school setting, you will need to earn Pennsylvania State certification. At this time, there are only three public Montessori schools in Pennsylvania. Thus, most Montessori schools in this state are private. Montessori teachers are currently working with the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania to have the Montessori credential recognized as a state certification. In ten other states, this has already been accomplished. Non-Montessori state certification programs are offered at Chestnut Hill College. For more information, please contact GradAdmissions@chc.edu.

7 ARE JOBS AVAILABLE?

There are over 160 Montessori schools in Pennsylvania and over 5000 nationwide. There are numerous teaching opportunities available each year, which can be viewed in the Job Opportunities section of the American Montessori Society website. Job Opportunities are also posted in our Montessori Resource Room. The employment rate of our graduates is close to 100%.

8 HOW MUCH DOES IT COST?

For the 2016-2017 academic year, the cost per credit is \$ 625.00. The approximate cost to earn a Montessori Early Childhood credential for graduate credit is \$ 19,775 which includes the tuition plus materials, printing, etc.

The non-credit option tuition fee is \$ 600.00 per 45 hour course. The approximate cost to earn a Montessori Early Childhood credential for non-credit is \$ 7,430 which includes tuition plus materials, printing, etc.

At present, the cost per credit for the Accelerated Adult degree program is \$540.00 per credit. Those students interested in completing their Bachelor's Degree in the School of Continuing and Professional Studies while taking Montessori courses toward the Montessori Early Childhood Credential must meet with a college advisor to determine their program plan and the final cost.

A 10% discount those taking college credit courses is given to full time teachers and early childhood educators.

Tuition and fees are subject to a small increase each year which goes into effect July 1st. Tuition is paid each semester at registration or on the deferred payment plan in three installments for graduate credit.

9 IS FINANCIAL AID AVAILABLE?

Please contact the Chestnut Hill Financial Aid Office for information regarding financial aid, 215-248-7182. Potential students should be sure to inquire about the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant program. The American Montessori Society offers a limited number of scholarships each year. Application forms and information are available on the AMS web site www.amshq.org (click on "Teacher Education") or call AMS 212-359-1250, x-1250.

10 WHERE AND WHEN ARE MONTESSORI CLASSES HELD?

All Montessori courses are held in our fully equipped Montessori lab classroom located on the third floor of Logue Library. Some courses are held in the summer in a two week, 3 day per week format. Other courses are offered during the fall and spring semesters, either on Saturdays or during the evenings. Evening classes run once a week for approximately 15 weeks from 6:00 - 9:00 PM. Saturday classes are held for 8 weeks from 9:00 AM to 4:00 PM.

11 WHERE WOULD I DO MY STUDENT TEACHING?

Your year-long, half day Montessori Practicum must be in an approved Montessori school in a classroom environment with children in the full range of ages (3 - 6 years) for the early childhood level. Students may choose their own internship sites with approval from the Director of the Chestnut Hill Montessori Teacher Education Program. The Director will provide assistance with this process as needed. Some students acquire paid internship positions; others complete their internships as volunteers.

The American Montessori Society Early Childhood Credential certifies you to teach only the 3 - 6 year age range of children. AMS credentials for other age levels require that you complete separate training programs. These programs include the Infant/Toddler (0 - 3 years), Elementary I (6 - 9 years), Elementary II (9 - 12 years), Secondary I (12 - 15 years) and Secondary II (12 - 18 years). At this time, Chestnut Hill College offers Montessori teacher education for the Early Childhood level only.

For more information or clarification about the Montessori Teacher Education program, please contact:

Marjorie Horton, Program Director, at 610-349-7574 or hortonm1@chc.edu.

For information about Graduate Studies at Chestnut Hill College, to begin the admissions process and/or request an application packet, contact the Graduate Admissions Staff at GradAdmissions@chc.edu or 215-248-7170.