Master of Science in Education in Teaching and Learning: Montessori

This full-time, year long program begins in the summer with a two-week intensive training and continues from September through June. Coursework located at Winfield Children’s House is concurrent with an internship in a program approved Early Childhood Montessori school. It leads to an M.S.Ed. in Teaching and Learning.

The Montessori Philosophy
The Montessori Method is an approach to education which guides children through the “voyage of discovery.” A vast array of specially designed educational equipment is introduced to the child by Montessori trained teachers (facilitators) in an atmosphere that promotes personal responsibility, freedom of choice, problem-solving skills, self-esteem, love and respect.

After becoming Italy’s first woman physician in 1896, Dr. Maria Montessori focused her attention on the emotional and intellectual needs of young children. Her unique human insights, discovered through countless hours of observation led to the application of principles and the development of theories known as the Montessori Method.

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS
The Master of Science in Education in Teaching and Learning focuses on preparing professional teachers to understand the theory and practice of teaching and learning. Through the Montessori Early Childhood Education program, students complete all requirements for the American Montessori Society (AMS) and the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) early childhood (ages 2.5-6) teacher certification. The coursework also allows students to be eligible to apply for birth-5 teacher certification with the Maine Department of Education.

ACCREDITATION HIGHLIGHTS
The program is offered in collaboration with the Maine Montessori Institute located at Winfield Children’s House in Falmouth, Maine. Winfield Children’s House is an AMS accredited early childhood program serving children ages 12 months-age 6. The Maine Montessori Institute is a full affiliated training site of the American Montessori Society and is a MACTE accredited teacher training center. Students learn the practice of teaching through a year-long internship and explore the theoretical and research-based principles of the Montessori method and materials design by Dr. Maria Montessori.
EMPLOYMENT OPPORTUNITIES

There are now over five thousand Montessori schools across the nation. The Montessori Method has been used successfully with children from birth through high school. Students from all socio-economic levels, various cultural back-grounds, and diversified academic abilities have successfully attended Montessori programs. By design, classrooms include both younger and older children. In this way, younger children have the opportunity to learn from those who are older. In turn, the older children develop leadership skills. As each child matures, the roles shift. Learning to give and receive from teachers and peers is a basic Montessori concept.

A prepared environment rich with manipulative learning materials is available allowing children to progress at their own pace. Positive reinforcement, learning by doing, order and freedom to choose are advocated in Dr. Montessori’s principles. Children learn self-confidence and responsibility through purposeful activity, observation, and discovery. From the earliest age children are encouraged to become independent learners, to use critical thinking skills and to be problem solvers.

Our challenge as educators is to prepare an educational environment that will provide for the optimum development of the human potential. Our vision is a new generation of adults with clarity of vision and competent creative minds who will have a positive impact on the future of the world.

APPLICATION DEADLINES

Applications are reviewed on a rolling basis. Applicants seeking financial assistance should follow all USM guidelines and deadlines. For details please on the admissions requirements visit: usm.maine.edu/teacher-education/msed-teaching-and-learning-montessori-early-childhood-teacher-education-programme

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

It is important that all applicants read and follow the admission instructions and details. usm.maine.edu/teacher-education

- A completed online application with the USM Office of Admissions
- A non-refundable application fee of $65
- Current Resume
- Praxis Core official test scores
- Official transcripts for all colleges or universities attended. The Office of Graduate Admissions is able to obtain transcripts of courses completed after 1985 from any University of Maine system campus, so you do not need to request those; however, you do need to list them on your application.
- Three letters of recommendation. Letters should reflect an applicant’s academic ability to succeed in graduate study and/or potential as a teacher. If possible, at least one should be from a faculty member familiar with the applicant’s academic work, and at least one should attest to the applicant’s work with children.
- Essay (2 to 3 pages) - see admission instructions for specific essay question.
- Catalog of Experiences
- Certificate of Finances (international students only).
- Submission of official TOEFL or IELTS scores (if English is not first language)