

PHASES FOR INFANT-TODDLER AND EARLY CHILDHOOD PROGRAMS

- Phase I** An in-depth personal interview
- Phase II** A small-group orientation that introduces preparatory assignment work
- Phase III** Beginning academics offered twice annually in a weekend format in the Spring and a week-day 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 successful phases.

EARLY CHILDHOOD AMS TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM (MACTE ACCREDITED)

Seton Montessori Institute'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.

ELEMENTARY I AND ELEMENTARY I-II AMS TEACHER CREDENTIAL PROGRAM (MACTE ACCREDITED)

Seton Montessori Institute's Elementary course prepares self-aware adults as Montessori educators for children in their elementary years of development. The course prepares adult educators for work with children ages six through twelve, Montessori's second plane of development.

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

Seton Montessori Institute'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 strengthen 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, Seton Montessori Institute 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.

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 Seton Montessori Institute with three references, high school diploma, college transcripts or transcript evaluation.

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 begin as 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 intensive 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 specific period following certification.

Is there financial aid or scholarships available from Seton Montessori Institute?

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

What is the difference between Seton Montessori Institute programs and other teacher preparation courses?

Seton Montessori Institute'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 (F1) visas, provided they meet federal eligibility requirements. Although we cannot guarantee they will be approved, we have been very successful in the past.

What are the prerequisites for the credential program?

The candidate for a full credential, either for the Elementary I (6 through 9) or Elementary I-II (6 through 12), must hold as a minimum:

- A Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited United States college or university, or its equivalent, from a university outside of the United States, as verified by an official transcript analysis report. An Elementary I or Elementary I-II credential may be awarded to adult learners who hold a Bachelors degree or higher from a non-U.S. college/university, and whose degree does not equate to a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college/university. The degree and country in which the degree was awarded are then indicated on the credential.
- A Montessori Early Childhood credential issued by an AMS or other MACTE accredited course, or alternatively, participation in a prerequisite Overview Course, offered twice each year at Seton.
- Each course applicant will provide a completed application form, three written references, and two copies of their official college transcripts/transcript analysis report. Entrance to the program also requires a personal interview, which is scheduled upon receipt of the completed application and payment of application fee. During the interview appointment, the applicant will be asked to provide a writing sample. Basic English skills are necessary for successful completion of the course, and students who have difficulties with written or spoken English may be asked to complete supplementary coursework.

How long does it take to complete the elementary credential program?

The full Elementary I-II program requires a minimum of eighteen months to complete. In order to fulfill only the requirements for Elementary I, a minimum of one year is needed. Students have up to three years to meet the requirement to complete the program.

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

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. Our Admissions Coordinator can direct applicants to information about scholarships and job opportunities, as we receive information about current opportunities.

Is there financial aid or scholarships available from Seton Montessori Institute?

Each year Seton Montessori Institute awards a very limited number of partial scholarships to applicants who wish to complete their student teaching experiences in our Lab School.

What is unique about Seton Montessori Institute's program?

Seton Montessori Institute is proud of its rich history of providing teacher preparation across the United States and abroad. Our notable faculty is international in their outlook, faithful to Maria Montessori's insights, and current with the latest research. Our excellent Elementary Lab School program is available to our students as a resource for learning and observation.

Do you offer student visas for foreign students?

We are approved to sponsor 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 with assisting foreign students in this process in the past.