

Montessori Pathways Career Fair Participant Guide





Introduction

Thank you for answering the call — not just for attending our virtual career fair – but for joining us in exploring the power and potential of Montessori education. This event is designed to begin conversations that bring high quality Montessori teacher education programs together with teachers, people who are thinking about teaching, and those who are just here to ask questions, share ideas, and learn more about how Montessori educators are shaping the future.

In this guide, you will find information for each of the Teacher Education Programs (TEPs) participating in the event, some key information about Montessori teacher education, and what makes AMS Affiliated TEPs the right choice for teachers seeking a Montessori credential.

Why Join the Montessori Movement

Have you ever visited a place and immediately felt at home? This is how many Montessori teachers, parents, families, community members, and—most importantly— children, have felt for decades. We often hear from adults that they wish that they had been taught through this approach when they were children.

Because Montessori education is a specialized approach to teaching and learning, many are not quite sure what Montessori education actually entails. We invite you to discover why tens of thousands of career educators have chosen to join the Montessori Movement.

Child-centered Environments

The notion of the prepared environment means that Montessori teachers are aware of the developmental and learning needs of the level of children they guide, as well as the needs of each individual within the present community of learners. The multi-age, child-directed classroom allows teachers to work with the same community of children extensively over several years to support all aspects of their growth and development.

Real Learning

The curriculum and materials within a Montessori classroom are specifically designed to promote deep learning, with purposeful integration of content across curricular areas. And the learning never flows in one direction: teachers are not only integral to the success of the Montessori classroom, but lifelong transformational learning for teachers is part of this philosophy.

A Connected, Global Community

In some ways all teachers share a unique professional kinship. This is amplified within the Montessori community. Whether leading a classroom, program level, or entire school, Montessori educators can count on collegiality and support from a global network of practitioners who are part of the same movement and share the successes and challenges that make this career so rewarding.

Making an Impact

The most important thing to teachers (and we believe to all humans) is that their work is making a difference. Maria Montessori spent decades researching and applying innovative approaches to human development because she recognized that children are the path to creating global citizens who are not only prepared for themselves but are prepared to be stewards of the planet. This is the concept of peace through education in the Montessori community.

Montessori Teacher Education: What to Know

Many of the questions you will have about Montessori teacher education are best answered by the programs who live this work every day. We've outlined some of the basics so that you have a good understanding of what is required and what it means to be a credentialed Montessori educator, but encourage you to speak with and contact our participating programs. If you have questions specifically for AMS you can email our Teacher Education team directly: affiliation@amshq.org.

Course Levels

A core component of quality Montessori education is multi-age grouping for classroom communities of children. These are often called Programs or Program Levels. For teacher education programs, AMS refers to these levels as Course Levels as they apply to programs of study for adult learners.

The typical divisions of Course Levels are as follows:

Infant and Toddler (IT) birth to 3, often with infants up to 15-18 months separated from toddler classrooms

Early Childhood (EC) ages 2.5 or 3 to 6

Elementary I (EI) ages 6-9

Elementary II (EII) ages 9-12

Elementary I-II (EI-II) ages 6-12

Secondary I (SEC I) ages 12-14 or 15

Secondary I-II (SEC I-II) ages 12-18

In addition, AMS offers administrator credentialing for **Montessori Heads of School**.

It is important to note:

- › There are no standalone programs for Secondary II.
- › The names of programs in schools will vary and may not be the same as the naming conventions in teacher education programs. However, the ages of children are consistent with the divisions listed here.

Terminology

Any professional field will have its own language to describe common practice, and Montessori teacher education is no different. Three words that relate to teacher qualifications tend to be used interchangeably, but we distinguish between these terms to reduce confusion:

Credentialed – a credentialed Montessori teacher is one who has completed a recognized education program designed to build the knowledge, competence, and experience to lead a classroom at a specific program level. This is the correct term for a teacher who is qualified as a Montessori Lead Teacher or Lead Guide.

Certified/Certification – practitioners with any level of experience and status may complete certificate programs or courses, so the term certification may be confusing because of the many different contexts of its use. Some programs use the term certification to refer to a pathway that results in a teaching credential. It is always important to confirm that you understand whether a program results in a teaching credential, regardless of the language used in its description.

Accredited/Accreditation – In Montessori education, individuals are not accredited. This is sometimes used by schools and teacher education programs, but these terms mean different things for different organizations. For Montessori education in the United States, there is one organization recognized by the US Department of Education as a programmatic accreditor of higher ed teacher education programs, which is the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE). It is widely accepted that programs should be accredited, whether by MACTE or another higher education accreditor. An accredited Teacher Education Program has met minimum standards for higher education.

Another term that is fairly unique in its use in Montessori education is **affiliation**. In Montessori teacher education, the programs that are accredited by MACTE tend to be related to Montessori-focused organizations, like AMS. This formal relationship is called affiliation. AMS Affiliated TEPs have demonstrated that they meet AMS requirements for quality teacher preparation, which exceed accreditation requirements.

Course Formats and Duration

Montessori teacher credential programs are usually divided into two phases: academic and practicum. Accredited TEPs are required to have a portion of their academic coursework delivered in-person. Most quality programs also require a practicum phase that is completed in a classroom setting in a Montessori school at the program level of study. Beyond this general structure, you may find a variety of in-person and blended (or hybrid) options across different teacher education programs.

Many contemporary programs condense in-person sessions into summer terms, or conduct in-residence programming blended with online learning. Most programs can be completed in two years, and much of the coursework is further concentrated into manageable timeframes to support the busy schedules of working adults.

Program Costs

Just as there are a wide variety of program formats, costs can also vary widely across programs. When considering programs, keep in mind how location may affect program costs. Also think about the kind of experience that would best suit your needs as a learner and professional educator.

Reputable programs will publish tuition costs and associated fees openly, and accredited programs are required to provide this information transparently. Non-accredited programs that offer fully online learning within a condensed timeframe can obviously charge much less than full, credential-bearing programs. These are sometimes appropriate for educators looking for an introduction to Montessori practice. However, we recommend that you also seek a reputable program when attending even introductory courses, which are offered online by many AMS Affiliate TEPs. Any educator interested in becoming a lead teacher should focus program selection on accredited programs that offer full academic and practicum phases and culminate with a recognized Montessori credential.

Overall tuition and fees will also depend on the program levels offered and materials provided. For example, a single course level (like Early Childhood, ages 3-6) may be less expensive, overall, than an integrated Elementary I & II program (ages 6-12). Generally speaking, tuition for Montessori TEPs resulting in a full credential will be between \$5,000 and \$18,000.

Pre-requisites

All AMS Affiliated TEPs require that credential seeking adult learners fall into one of two categories:

- 1 | Those who have earned a bachelor's degree (or equivalent if a terminal recognition was earned in a country outside the US that does not follow the US model of college and university degree programs).
- 2 | Those who are in the process of earning a bachelor's degree and will have completed this degree by the time that the Montessori credential coursework is completed.

There are exceptions to this requirement for the Infant and Toddler, as well as the Early Childhood course levels. Adult learners who have not completed a bachelor's degree may earn an Associate Infant & Toddler or an Associate Early Childhood credential. These associate level credentials can be upgraded to full credentials if an individual earns a bachelor's degree within a specified period.

Credits and Outcomes

There are two basic organizational structures for AMS TEPs, those that operate as independent entities (called free standing) and those that operate as part of a college or university.

Regardless of this organizational structure, many TEPs offer programs that fall into one of three categories in terms of outcomes:

- 1 | **Full Credential programs** – these programs offer lead teacher credentials for a specific program level
- 2 | **Non-credential programs** – these programs provide professional learning, professional development, and/or specialty courses of study that may result in a certificate or other recognition but do not result in a full Montessori teaching credential
- 3 | **Credit-bearing courses** – many AMS Affiliate TEPs provide the opportunity for adult learners to earn college or university credit by completing specific courses of study. Most often, this requires completion of a full credential pathway, but each teacher education program is unique and may have varying options.

In many teacher preparation programs for traditional education, the program culminates with state licensure. The qualifications or requirements for initial licensure are built into the course, and course participants can schedule and complete licensure exams either during or just after the program. Since Montessori education is neither state nor nation specific, state licensure is not included in Montessori teacher education credential programs. States may require specific licensure or other designations that are additional to the Montessori credential. AMS TEPs do not focus on specific licensure requirements, though some do partner with state and local agencies to support teacher credentialing processes.

AMS Affiliate Teacher Education Programs: What's the Difference?

The Global Applicability of the AMS Credential

Montessori education does not belong to any single organization or group. Instead, Montessori education lives among a global community that is ever growing and ever changing. The AMS teacher credential is recognized by Montessori schools across the globe. With the AMS credential, you will find a recognized and respected mark of distinction that represents a pathway to professional opportunity. Dollar for dollar, there is not a better investment in professional security as a Montessori educator.

A Program for Every Learner

AMS does not operate affiliated Teacher Education Programs. Each individual program has been developed with the specific needs of its community in mind. While all AMS Affiliates have demonstrated evidence of high-quality teacher education programming based on AMS requirements, the program retains the autonomy to design and innovate as they see fit. As a result, adult learners have over 100 quality programs to choose from, with options, delivery models, and benefits aligned to their needs. This is part of the reason that tens of thousands of Montessori teachers have chosen AMS — the programs are custom made to fit!



Not Just a Credential — a Community for Life

The AMS Credential is an achievement to be recognized and celebrated, but the benefits of this accomplishment do not end at graduation. The American Montessori Society is a community that carries the Montessori movement forward. As part of this global community of practitioners, you will find a network of personalized support, shared purpose, and professional excellence that grows alongside you every step of the way. AMS adult learners begin their credential program as AMS members, and it is our goal to offer a lifetime of value and connection over the course of a career.

If you are brand new to the idea of Montessori education, check out the [essentials for quality schools](#) at the AMS website.

Participating Teacher Education Programs

Chestnut Hill College MTEP

Chestnut Hill College offers a Montessori Early Childhood Credential Program (3 to 6 year-olds) accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education and affiliated by the American Montessori Society. Students interested in becoming Montessori educators may take coursework in the College's Montessori Teacher Education Program for credit towards a bachelor's or master's degree or as part of a noncredit program. Successful completion of this program leads to an American Montessori Society credential.



LOCATION: Philadelphia, PA

chc.edu/academics/programs/montessori-education

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Carissa Swiss

COURSE LEVELS:

- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)

COURSE FORMAT: In-person

Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies

Since 1980, Barrie has been a leader in Montessori education for teachers. The Barrie Institute for Advanced Montessori Studies offers Montessori teacher education programs each summer, which lead to American Montessori Society (AMS) teacher credentialing. If teaching in a Montessori classroom is in your future, we encourage you to join us. It is an inspiring way to spend your summer!



LOCATION: Silver Spring, MD

barrie.org/institute/overview

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Hilary Green

COURSE LEVELS:

- Elementary I (6-9)
- Elementary I-II (6-12)
- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Associate Infant & Toddler
- Infant & Toddler (0-3)
- Elementary II (9-12)

COURSE FORMAT: Blended

International Center for Montessori Studies LLC

At ICMS, our mission is to inspire and empower the next generation of Montessori educators by providing high-quality, authentic Montessori Teacher Training in both Early Childhood and Elementary Education. Rooted in the philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori, we believe that every child deserves access to an education that nurtures independence, curiosity, and a lifelong love of learning. To make that vision a reality, we focus on preparing passionate, knowledgeable educators who are ready to make a meaningful impact. Our programs are thoughtfully designed with working adults in mind. We understand the demands of year-round responsibilities, which is why our flexible schedule allows you to balance your professional and personal life while pursuing your Montessori certification. Training begins with immersive summer sessions and continues on Saturdays throughout the academic year, from August through June. What sets ICMS apart is our hands-on approach. From the very beginning, you'll have the chance to apply what you learn directly in the classroom, gaining real-world experience as you grow in confidence and skill. Many of our trainees complete their practicum or internship alongside their coursework, creating a seamless and enriching learning journey. Join us at ICMS and become part of a vibrant community dedicated to transforming education—one teacher, one child, and one classroom at a time.



LOCATION: Miami, FL

internationalcenterformontessoristudies.com

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Heidi Lilchin

COURSE LEVELS:

- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Elementary I (6-9)
- Elementary I-II (6-12)

COURSE FORMAT: In-person

Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative

The mission of the Montessori Elementary Teacher Training Collaborative (METTC) is to support adult learners to become excellent educators, versed in the concepts and philosophy of Dr. Maria Montessori, skillful in the use of Montessori materials and curriculum, and eager to continue their personal growth through professional development and sharing within the community of their peers and instructors.



LOCATION: Lexington, MA

mettc.org

PROGRAM COORDINATOR: Nancy Schluskel

COURSE LEVELS:

- Elementary I (6-9)
- Elementary I-II (6-12)
- Elementary II (9-12)

Oaks Montessori Teacher Education

Our mission... striving to empower the future of Montessori trained educators through providing genuine accredited Montessori teacher education in a blended on-line/in-residency learning format. OMTE also enriches the Montessori Community by providing professional development opportunities.



LOCATION: Oconomowoc, WI
oaksmont.org

PROGRAM DIRECTORS: Barb Jens & Mindi E. Eineichner

COURSE LEVELS:

- Associate Infant & Toddler
- Infant & Toddler (0-3)
- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Elementary I (6-9)
- Elementary I-II (6-12)
- Secondary I (12-15)
- Secondary I-II (12-18)

COURSE FORMAT: Blended

Princeton Center for Teacher Education

Founded in 1989, Princeton Center for Teacher Education (PCTE) is a Montessori teacher training center dedicated to helping adults find and cultivate the maximum potential in every child as the focus of its Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) accredited and American Montessori Society (AMS) affiliated teacher education programs. Its world-class facility within the Princeton Montessori School offers a hands-on learning experience led by a highly-trained and experienced faculty that is second to none. PCTE is committed to providing an inclusive and diverse community and learning experiences that challenge us to appreciate differences and act in a way that is inclusive and respectful to all. PCTE welcomes faculty, staff, and adult learners of every race, color, nationality, gender identity, or ethnic origin. It does not discriminate on any basis in the administration of its educational policies, admissions policies, and other school-administered programs.



LOCATION: Princeton, NJ
pctemontessori.org

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Huma Kazmi

COURSE LEVELS:

- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Associate Infant & Toddler
- Infant & Toddler (0-3)
- Elementary I (6-9)

COURSE FORMAT: Blended

Seton Montessori Institute

Founded in 1970, Seton Montessori Institute (formerly MECA-Seton) has prepared thousands of Montessori educators and school leaders across the United States and around the world. Rooted in the Montessori philosophy, Seton's mission is to empower children and adults to become thoughtful, effective agents of peace and progress within themselves, their communities, and the world. Seton Montessori Institute is affiliated with the American Montessori Society (AMS), accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE), and approved to operate by the Private Business and Vocational Schools Division of the Illinois Board of Higher Education. Dedicated to serving the children of the world by preparing highly skilled Montessori teachers and administrators, Seton offers comprehensive preparation programs specializing in Infant & Toddler (birth to age three), Early Childhood (ages three to six), and Montessori School Leadership and Administration. Seton offers blended programs with flexible start dates to meet the needs of today's Montessori educator. Additionally, Seton provides a range of professional development opportunities, including seminars, paraprofessional courses, post-certification programs, and consultation and coaching services for Montessori schools and teacher education programs worldwide. As a trusted and enduring resource for the global Montessori community, Seton Montessori Institute remains committed to excellence in Montessori education and the lifelong development of educators and leaders. Come start... or continue your Montessori journey with us!



LOCATION: Clarendon Hills, IL

setonmontessori.org

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Anna Perry

COURSE LEVELS:

- Administrator
- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Associate Infant & Toddler
- Infant & Toddler (0-3)

COURSE FORMAT: Blended

Shelton Montessori Training

Shelton offers Montessori teacher education courses in Early Childhood and Elementary Level I, and Elementary Level II and Elementary I-II. The American Montessori Society (AMS) offers a credential to those who meet the admission requirements and successfully complete the requirements of the course. These courses are accredited by MACTE (Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education) SMT is also offering the AMS Administrator Credential and the Montessori Inclusion Endorsement. These courses provide a dynamic introduction to Montessori through lectures, demonstration, classroom observations, small group projects, creation of personalized manuals and personal research. Experienced, dedicated mentors in select Montessori settings guide a 9-month practicum. Students take oral and written examinations and complete research projects. Shelton also offers training to help Montessorians understand the specific needs of children at risk for learning differences and provide specific strategies for matching the Montessori educational method to those needs. This course is titled Montessori Applied to Children At-Risk or MACAR and is offered at beginning and advanced levels, and in several locations. Applicants

should be passionate about teaching, creative in their outlook and determined in their focus. Students must attend all lectures, demonstrations and practice sessions.



**Shelton
Montessori
Training**

LOCATION: Dallas, TX

shelton.org/shelton-teacher-training/montessori

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Gulzar Babool

COURSE LEVELS:

- Elementary I (6-9)
- Elementary I-II (6-12)
- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Montessori Inclusion Endorsement
- Elementary II (9-12)
- Administrator

COURSE FORMAT: Blended

Virginia Center for Montessori Studies

Virginia Center for Montessori Studies is an AMS Affiliated and MACTE Accredited Teacher Education Program offering quality Infant & Toddler and Early Childhood training programs in Richmond, VA. Our blended-hybrid program offers training options that are accessible and flexible. Adult learners are provided the opportunity to learn on their own time and also collaborate with their peers in a hands-on setting with materials. VCMS prides itself on our mission — to offer a strong foundation of Montessori philosophy and methods to guide and support adult learners as they transform into confident and effective life-long learners. With small class sizes and a dedicated faculty, we develop strong relationships with our candidates that continues beyond their graduation.



LOCATION: Richmond, VA

vacenterformontessoristudies.com

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Michele Mohar

COURSE LEVELS:

- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Associate Infant & Toddler
- Infant & Toddler (0-3)

COURSE FORMAT: In-person

West Side Montessori School-Teacher Education Program

In 1967, Project CHAMP (Central Harlem Association of Montessori Parents) was founded by Roslyn D. Williams to prepare parents to become active participants in their child's education and to increase the pool of Montessori teachers in New York City. CHAMP was the first AMS Teacher Education Program affiliated in New York City and the first African American established Montessori TEP in the US. WSMS faculty and administrators, along with faculty from other Montessori schools, taught for Project CHAMP in those early years.

In September 1994, the WSMS Board of Trustees voted to move Project CHAMP under the umbrella of WSMS to ensure the legacy of Montessori teacher preparation in NYC. At that time, the name was changed to West Side Montessori School — Teacher Education Program. For many years, WSMS-TEP offered a program to prepare adults to earn the AMS Early Childhood credential. In 2012, the Infant Toddler level was added in response to local needs. Crucially aware of the expanding worldwide need for high-quality Montessori educators over a broader range of ages, WSMS-TEP expanded to add the Elementary I (6-9), I-II (6-12), and II (9-12) levels with classes held at Metropolitan Montessori School. The first cohort of Elementary began in 2016. The Administrator program, which prepares adults for leadership positions in Montessori schools, accepted the inaugural cohort in 2017. WSMS-TEP was one of the first programs in the US to add the Montessori Inclusion Endorsement to prepare credentialed Montessori teachers to serve children with exceptional needs. Additional Locations have been added to support the growth of Montessori teacher preparation in Shanghai, China, and Buffalo, NY.



LOCATION: New York, NY

wsmsnyc.org/teachereducation

PROGRAM DIRECTOR: Lisanne Pinciotti

COURSE LEVELS:

- Administrator
- Elementary I (6-9)
- Elementary I-II (6-12)
- Associate Early Childhood
- Early Childhood (2½-6)
- Associate Infant & Toddler
- Infant & Toddler (0-3)
- Montessori Inclusion Endorsement
- Elementary II (9-12)

COURSE FORMAT: Blended