



# Coursework Handbook

Early Childhood

2023

Accredited by MACTE through December 2028  
AMS Full Affiliate through December 2028



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## Overview

## Course Outline

The sequence of the AMS-affiliated MMTEI Teacher Education Course program is as follows:

### Academic Phase – Online **202 hours**

One class per fall and spring semesters.

Montessori Philosophy and Foundations of Early Childhood Development I  
 Montessori Philosophy and Foundations of Early Childhood Development II  
 Montessori Classroom Leadership

Intermittent instructor-led distance education hours via Zoom in:

Practical Life  
 Sensorial  
 Language  
 Math  
 Science & Social Studies

### Academic Phase – On-Site **205.5 hours**

Expected length of time for completion: June-January (*Academic Workshop June-July and Weekend Workshop in January*)

Presentation on Montessori Philosophy and Materials in:

Practical Life  
 Sensorial  
 Language  
 Math  
 Science and Social Studies Subjects

Discussion of requirements on:

Observations  
 Preparing Resource Manuals  
 Year-Long Project

### Practicum in a Montessori School **540 hours (min)**

Expected length of time for completion: September-June (*one complete school year*)

The practicum period provides the student the opportunity to fully experience what is involved in being a Montessori teacher in the classroom from a practical viewpoint. Students are evaluated by the supervising teacher and observed and evaluated by a field consultant three to five times throughout the practicum year (minimum of four visits for a self-directed internship).

During the practicum year, students should expect to dedicate an additional six to eight hours per week to work outside the classroom:

- Completing six observations in Montessori classrooms with write-ups
- Preparing the Year-Long Project
- Preparing the resource manuals
- Writing monthly self-observation reports.

Evaluation and Review**hours included in Academic Phase**

Expected length of time for completion: Up to one week in June following the practicum year

Adult learners are evaluated to determine competency in understanding of Montessori philosophy and principles and use of the Montessori materials.

Evaluation consists of:

1. Final oral presentations of use of Montessori Materials (one hour minimum)
2. Written examinations on Montessori principles, philosophy, and materials (three hours minimum each)
3. Presentation of Resource Manuals
4. Presentation of Year-Long Project

**TOTAL: 947.5 hours**

Upon successful completion of the Early Childhood Course/all AMS requirements:

The director recommends the adult learner for an AMS Early Childhood Credential if the adult learner holds at minimum a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S college/university or its equivalent from a non-U.S. college/university, as determined by a recognized credential evaluation service.

An AMS Early Childhood Credential will also be recommended if the degree is officially determined not to be equivalent to a U.S. bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited college/university, but still meets the nationally recognized post-secondary educational standard in the state, province, or country of issuance, including a normal program length of a minimum of three years. This credential will state the degree and country in which the degree was earned.

The director recommends the adult learner for an AMS Associate Early Childhood Credential if the adult learner holds a high school diploma, GED, or the international equivalent thereof, but not a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S. college/university or its equivalent as determined by a recognized credential evaluation service. Country, state, and local employment requirements change periodically and vary in different types of schools (e.g., private, public/charter, faith-based, publicly funded). In some locations or schools, an Associate Credential may not qualify for full teaching responsibility. Even if it is currently possible to qualify for full teaching responsibility without a Bachelor's degree, employment regulations may change in the future. The applicant is responsible for checking specific jurisdictions and schools for particular employment requirements.

Applicants for this AMS-affiliated Early Childhood course who do not have a Bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited U.S college/university or its equivalent are required to sign a statement verifying that they have received the above information before they are considered for acceptance into this course. The official equivalency evaluation will be submitted to the AMS office of teacher education in place of the non-U.S. transcript for AMS's final decision.

AMS strongly encourages holders of the AMS Associate Early Childhood Credential to obtain their Bachelor's degree within seven years of credentialing. AMS hopes you consider your credential as the beginning of your journey of lifelong learning. Teachers with an Associate credential are eligible for an AMS Early Childhood Credential upon completing the Bachelor's degree requirement. To upgrade a credential, the teacher must be a current AMS member and send an official transcript documenting the Bachelor's degree with the credential upgrade fee to the AMS Office of Teacher Education.

## Length of Course and Total Clock Hours

The course in the Montessori curriculum is designed to be completed in two years as a part-time student for the first year and a full-time student during the second year. Nine-hundred, forty-seven and a half (947.5) total clock hours are required to complete the course of study to become a certified Montessori teacher. It is possible that students who are participating in a self-directed internship may take longer to complete their course material due to the challenge of completing the full workload while serving as a lead teacher. MMTEI will work with the student to design a schedule that meets his or her needs.

Three years from the end of the Academic Phase (Section II) is allowed to complete the program. If more than three years elapse, the student may apply for reinstatement into our program if he/she desires to continue. A yearly extension fee of \$300 per year will apply. The student will also be responsible for any increase in fees from our accrediting agencies.

Upon completion of all assignments and requirements and the payment of all moneys due, the student will receive a certificate from the American Montessori Society (see page 9). This certificate is the credential needed to teach as a head teacher in the Montessori classroom. All of the students who receive Montessori certification from this center enter the teaching profession with an in-depth knowledge of Montessori philosophy and are skilled in Montessori teaching strategies, as well as current educational methods that complement the Montessori approach.

### Description of Courses

#### **Philosophy—Foundations of Early Childhood**

**Clock Hours: 60**

Online and in residence: Orientation to Montessori through guided readings in Montessori text books. The online course is held in the summer and is a prerequisite for the others. Assignments include weekly written assignments and discussions, as well as a final exam. Philosophy of the Montessori methods (materials and subject areas) is incorporated in the on-site academic phase and hours are counted in each subject.

#### **Child Development**

**Clock Hours: 60**

This online class, held in the spring of the practicum year, covers how the Montessori philosophy is used in early childhood education practices, along with the current implementation of the Montessori curriculum in today's classrooms. The course imparts an understanding of the physical, mental, emotional and social growth and development of the young child through the study of a variety of child psychologists and educators. Five written assignments and three written observations are required.

#### **Curriculum in Montessori Practical Life**

**Clock Hours: 35**

The development of order, concentration, coordination, and independence within the young child is rooted in the activities of Montessori's Practical Life curriculum. Students will learn to create activities and materials to enhance the child's growth in this area. Nutrition and fitness which includes the study of the basic nutritional, health and fitness needs of young children. Nutrients in foods as they affect physical and mental development will be identified.

#### **Curriculum in Montessori Sensorial**

**Clock Hours: 36**

The development and refinement of the senses is the purpose of this area of the classroom. In this course, students learn how to recognize the needs and abilities of the young child, and how to present the specific equipment designed by Dr. Montessori to further development of the total child.



**Curriculum in Montessori Math****Clock Hours: 38**

The development of the mathematical mind is the direct aim of the Montessori math materials for the young child. Using the materials designed by Dr. Montessori, students will learn how to spark the interest of the young child by sequentially teaching mathematical concepts.

**Curriculum in Montessori Language****Clock Hours: 36**

The student will learn techniques for developing a reading readiness curriculum for the class. Included will be skill development in storytelling, literature-based reading readiness, phonics, beginning reading activities, poetry, and song. The “whole language” approach is integrated with basic Montessori reading materials.

**Classroom Leadership/Environmental Design****Clock Hours: 63**

This online course explores strategies congruent with Montessori philosophy; utilizing aspects including environment preparation, positive discipline, observation, evaluation and parent communication. This class is designed to coordinate with the practicum year to create a positive community and improve the overall success of students as individuals and as a group.

**Montessori Science and Social Studies Subjects****Clock Hours: 27.5**

Zoology/Botany includes differences and similarities in fish, amphibians, reptiles, birds, mammals and the plant kingdom. The adult learner will be instructed in techniques to design activities for the preschooler. Astronomy/Physical Science includes ways to develop classroom activities that will present the fundamental concepts of astronomy, geology, physics and chemistry to young children. Geography/History includes materials and ideas to develop classroom activities that will present the fundamental concepts of air, water, the earth and land formations. History will be taught in the format of countries, flags and national costumes.

**Music, Movement & Art****Clock Hours: 12**

Students will be introduced to principles for teaching and using music in the classroom, and will acquire ideas for methods and materials in singing, rhythms, creative music and listening. Art includes a variety of techniques with a wide variety of art media. The emphasis will be on providing the young child with media for creative and individual expression. Fitness activities that can become a part of the daily curriculum will be presented.

**Parent Involvement****Clock Hours: 3**

A presentation and discussion of existing strategies and methods used for parent communication and education, and how to implement these strategies into systems that generate collaboration between parents, teachers, family and community.

**Child Study through Observation****Clock Hours: 40**

This is a two-semester course focused on developing objectivity and proficiency in observing and interpreting child behavior. The adult learner will be required to study the behaviors of selected children in the student teaching classroom site, keep records on their observations and record ways to continue guiding the children on their paths. Record keeping will be checked at the January workshop, field consultant visits and must be turned in during the final evaluation workshop.

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**Year-Long Project****Clock Hours: 10**

During the practicum year, the intern is required to complete a Year-Long Project and/or research to demonstrate understanding of designing, creating and sequencing Early Childhood learning in accordance with the Montessori philosophy of hands-on, concrete, manipulative, didactic and developmentally appropriate materials. A topic in the Science and Social Studies area reflecting the “needs of people” is preferred. Presentations occur during the final assessment week.

**Organization/Reflection****Clock Hours: 13.5**

Beginning with their admission interview and throughout the year, adult learners receive instruction regarding organizational methods, processes, and technology platforms required to succeed in MMTEI and specifically in their Montessori practicum experience.

**Early Childhood Supervised Work Experience (Practicum)****Clock Hours: 540 minimum**

This is a two-semester course: Working in the classroom on a daily basis under the supervision of a master teacher, the student will have an opportunity to observe and to put into practice all of the course work required for a Montessori certification. A January workshop will provide a mid-year touchpoint with instructors, along with intermittent synchronous zoom sessions.

## Coursework Assignments Schedule

Assignment	Due Date
<b>Resource Manuals</b>	
Philosophy Resource Manual (paper or digital) (100 pts) .....	December 5, 2023
Child Development Resource Manual (digital) (100 pts) .....	May 5, 2024
<b>(Following assignments due during your practicum year)</b>	
Classroom Leadership Resource Manual (digital) (100 pts).....	December 5, 2024
Practical Life Resource Manual (100 pts) .....	October 5, 2024
Sensorial Resource Manual (100 pts) .....	November 5, 2024
Language Resource Manual (digital) (100 pts) .....	Finals
Math Leadership (digital) (100 pts).....	Finals
Science and Social Studies Resource Manual (100 pts).....	Finals
Literature-Based Project (50 pts) .....	Finals
<b>Year-Long Project</b>	
Approval/Title.....	October 5, 2024
Outline .....	November 5, 2024
Content (100 pts.).....	Finals
Presentation (100 pts.).....	Finals
<i>Practicum/Internship</i> (Eight monthly self-observations are required. May can be used as a make-up month if one is missed.)	
Self-Observation #1—September (Practicum Requirement) .....	October 5, 2024
Practicum Hours Report—September	
Self-Observation #2—October (Practicum Requirement).....	November 5, 2024
Practicum Hours Report—October	
Self-Observation #3—November (Practicum Requirement).....	December 5, 2024
Practicum Hours Report—November	
Self-Observation #4—December (Practicum Requirement) .....	January 5, 2025
Practicum Hours Report—December	
Self-Observation #5—January (Practicum Requirement) .....	February 5, 2025
Practicum Hours Report—January	
Self-Observation #6—February (Practicum Requirement) .....	March 5, 2025
Practicum Hours Report—February	
Self-Observation #7—March (Practicum Requirement) .....	April 5, 2025
Practicum Hours Report—March	
Self-Observation #8—April (Practicum Requirement) .....	May 5, 2025
Practicum Hours Report—April	
Self-Observation #9—May (Optional if eight haven't been turned in yet) .....	June 5, 2025
Practicum Hours Report—May	
<i>Child Journal/Record Keeping</i>	
#1 –January Check-in.....	January 2025 Workshop
#2 – Check-in at Field Consultant visits .....	During Practicum
#2 – June Check-in.....	Graduation
<i>Internship Observations</i>	
#1 – General Classroom (20 pts) .....	October 5, 2024
#2 – General Classroom (20 pts) .....	December 5, 2024
#3 – Individual Child (20 pts).....	February 5, 2025
#4 – Teacher/Children (20 pts).....	April 5, 2025
#5 – Practical Life & Language (20 pts).....	May 5, 2025
#6 – Sensorial & Math (20 pts) .....	June 5, 2025
<i>Supervising Teacher's Reports</i> (Practicum Requirement)	
#1 .....	November 5, 2024
#2 .....	January 5, 2025
#3 .....	March 5, 2025
#4 .....	May 5, 2025
<i>Field Consultant In-Class Observations from TEP - schedule to be arranged with each student</i>	
#1 (Practicum Requirement).....	Fall
#2 (Practicum Requirement).....	Winter
#3 (Practicum Requirement).....	Spring
#4 (Self-directed Practicum Requirement) .....	As needed
#5 (Optional) .....	As needed



## **Subject Overview & Manuals**

## Online Philosophy Class Overview

**Course Title:** Montessori Philosophy and Foundations of Early Childhood Development I

**Faculty Member Name:** Terry Welder and Christine Phillips

**Course Description:** This is an introductory course covering the Montessori philosophy of education and child development. Human growth and development and educational theories will be emphasized as they pertain to children ages two and one half (2 ½) to six (6) years. This course applies to Montessori Early Childhood and Elementary Certifications.

### Required Texts:

- *Lillard, Paula Polk - Montessori a Modern Approach - New York: Schocken Books, 1972*
- *Montessori, Maria - The Absorbent Mind - New York: Henry Holt and Co., Inc., 1995*
- *Montessori, Maria - The Montessori Method - New York: Schocken Books, 1964*
- *Montessori, Maria - The Secret of Childhood - New York: Ballantine Books, 1991*
- *Montessori, Maria - The Discovery of the Child - New York: Ballantine Books, 1990*
- *Standing, E.M. - Maria Montessori: Her Life and Work - New York: New American Library, Penguin Books, 1984*

### Optional Texts:

- *Lillard, Paula Polk—Montessori Today—New York: Schocken Books, 1996*
- *Lillard, Angeline Stoll—Montessori: The Science Behind the Genius—New York: Oxford, 2008*

### Course Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the adult learner should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and classroom implementation of the Montessori educational philosophy.
2. Identify the various stages of human growth development especially from ages 2 1/2 to 6 years.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of developmental and behavioral norms.
4. Identify potential recommendations toward early intervention services and strategies.

### Tentative Course Schedule:

See the class syllabus for a complete schedule:

- *Week 1: Welcome*
- *Week 2: Historical Overview of the Montessori Method*
- *Week 3: The Absorbent Mind—The Formative Period (0-6)*
- *Week 4: Sensitive Periods*
- *Week 5: Development of Intelligence—The Mathematical Mind*
- *Week 6: Education of the Senses—Prepared Environment*
- *Week 7: Normalization—Discipline, Order and Obedience*
- *Week 8: Imagination & Fantasy*
- *Week 9: Spiritual & Moral Development of the Child*
- *Week 10: Final Exam*

**Philosophy Resource Manual** *(turn this form in with your manual)***Due Dec. 5th, 2023**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assemble a binder of printed material. Requirements are as follows:

## Assembly

- Is it arranged in a 3-ring notebook?
- Is it arranged in logical sequential order according to the table of contents?
- Are sections grouped and divided by appropriate tabs?

Include the following:

- All notes received from the online class.
- All of your written assignments from the online class.
- All handouts received from on-site/in-residence Philosophy (subject area) presentations.  
*(will be added after on-site visit)*
- All notes that you took during on-site/in-residence Philosophy (subject area) presentations.  
*(will be added after on-site visit)*

**OR** Compile the elements into an organized digital arrangement:

- A digital album may be turned in on a CD or USB flash drive.
- A digital album should be arranged into one main folder with subfolders. A hard copy album should be arranged with a Table of Contents and page dividers as following subfolders.
- Title the main folder: [Lastname.FirstnameCLManual]
- Include sub-folders:
  - All materials (articles and handouts) from the On-line Class
  - All online class Written Assignments (separate files for each assignment labeled accordingly)

If you have hand-written elements that would be impractical to scan, you may supplement your digital album with a binder of those. Please include a Table of Contents describing the location of all elements.

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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\_\_\_\_\_

- Pass
- No Pass

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_





## Online Child Development Class Overview

**Course Title:** Montessori Philosophy and Foundations of Early Childhood Development II

**Faculty Member Name:** Sally Welder and Christine Phillips

**Course Description:** This is an introductory course covering the Montessori philosophy of education and child development. This course will focus primarily on child development as a component of an Early Childhood classroom. Human growth and development and educational theories will be emphasized as they pertain to children ages two and one half (2 ½) through six (6) years old.

### Course Learning Objectives:

Upon successful completion of this course, the adult learner should be able to:

1. Demonstrate an understanding of and classroom implementation of the Montessori educational philosophy.
2. Identify the various stages of human growth development, especially from ages 2 1/2 to 6 years.
3. Demonstrate knowledge of developmental and behavioral norms.
4. Identify potential recommendations toward early intervention services and strategies.
5. Understand theories of child development and see how they compare; specifically, Freud, Piaget, Dewey, Erickson and Vygotsky and Montessori.
6. Understand the many factors that contribute to a child's development.
7. Understand factors that contribute to a child's learning ability.
8. Understand theories of how a child's intelligence develops.
9. Demonstrate an ability to assess children's developmental needs through a variety of vehicles (e.g., observation, case studies, tests, development scales, classroom products).
10. Demonstrate knowledge of varied learning styles.

### Tentative Course Schedule:

See the course syllabus for a complete schedule:

- *Week 1:* Welcome and Overview
- *Week 2:* Knowledge and Beliefs
- *Week 3:* History of Child Development
- *Week 4:* Focus on John Dewey
- *Week 5:* Focus on Maria Montessori
- *Week 6:* Erik Erikson
- *Week 7:* Jean Piaget
- *Week 8:* Lev Vygotsky
- *Week 9:* Diversity and Communications
- *Week 10:* Work and Play
- *Week 11:* Social-Emotional Issues (Habits of Mind)
- *Week 12:* Review of Perspectives on Child Development
- *Week 13:* Super Hero and Violent Play
- *Week 14:* Encouragement
- *Week 15:* Final Exam



**Child Development Resource Manual** *(turn this form in with your manual)*

**Due May 5<sup>th</sup>, 2024**

Student Name: \_\_\_\_\_

Assemble a binder of printed material. Requirements are as follows:

Assembly

- Is it arranged in a 3-ring notebook?
- Is it arranged in logical sequential order according to the table of contents?
- Are sections grouped and divided by appropriate tabs?

Include the following:

- All notes received from the online class.
- All of your written assignments from the online class.

**OR** Compile the elements into an organized digital arrangement:

- A digital album may be turned in on a CD or USB flash drive.
- A digital album should be arranged into one main folder with subfolders.
- Title the main folder: [Lastname.FirstnameCDManual]
- Include sub-folders:
  - All materials (articles and handouts) from the On-line Class
  - All online class Written Assignments (separate files for each assignment labeled accordingly)
  - Record keeping projects with summary *(will be added after Practicum)*.
  - Classroom Observations #1-8 *(will be added after Practicum)*.

If you have hand-written elements that would be impractical to scan, you may supplement your digital album with a binder of those. Please include a Table of Contents describing the location of all elements.

**Comments:** \_\_\_\_\_

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- Pass
- No Pass

Evaluator Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

