Montessori Teacher Training Institute of MCCC

Frequently Asked Questions

1. How is Montessori training related to MCCC?

The Montessori Teacher Training Institute is a Montessori teacher training program. It is organized as a separate program so that the collection of necessary courses and requirements for completion are easily identified. The program is part of the certificate programs offered by the non-credit division of Mercer County Community College (MCCC).

2. Why are classes held at Montessori Corner in Plainsboro?

Montessori teacher training schools need a way to demonstrate how to use the Montessori materials. The preferred manner is to utilize model classrooms that are actually used by children. Montessori Corner, located at 666 Plainsboro Rd., Bldg. 2100, Plainsboro, NJ, has been accredited by the American Montessori Society, which means that its classrooms, curriculum and operations have been reviewed and found in compliance with authentic Montessori standards. Having the laboratory school at Montessori Corner is an advantageous opportunity for the MCCC teacher training program.

3. What are the Modules?

Each of the courses necessary to complete the training take a set number of hours, from 3 to 45. In order to manage the cost of the program and the registration process, the courses were grouped into 4 Modules, containing 3 or more courses each. This way the student only pays for a part of the program at a time, and MCCC can fit the multiple courses into its standard semesters.
4. What is the Academic phase?

The program takes two years to complete. The Academic phase is composed of lectures and demonstrations on how to understand and teach the Montessori method. It is completed during the first year, typically from September through June. Because it is set up in Modules, however, students may join the program at the beginning of Modules I, II, III or IV.

5. How many times a week are the Academic classes?

The classes are on Tuesdays and Thursdays (and occasional Mondays), from 5:30 to 8:30 pm, and on selected Saturdays, from 8:30 to 4:30. Class attendance is mandatory and any absences must be made up when the course is offered again.

6. Are there written exams?

Each course requires that the students show that they have understood the material. This may require demonstrating how to teach a lesson, giving a presentation, participating in a class exercise, or preparing a paper concerning the assigned topic. There are no traditional written exams. All courses are evaluated on a pass/fail basis.

7. Are there classes during the summer or required seminars?

There are no summer classes. There are no separately required seminars.

8. What is the Practicum phase?

The Practicum phase is where the student is in the classroom of an operating Montessori school. There is a qualified head teacher who will monitor the student’s progress in learning how to put into practice the processes learned during the Academic phase. The Practicum phase starts in either September or January and lasts for 540 hours, at a maximum of 3 hours per day, so it takes about 9 months to complete.

9. How do I find a Practicum site?

The student is responsible for finding a Practicum site. There are a number of Montessori schools in Mercer and Middlesex counties who would welcome students interning at their school and that have certified teachers capable of serving as supervising teachers. The program at MCCC does not have a Practicum site and cannot guarantee that each student will find one, but the program director will assist the students in their search. While some Practicum sites pay their Practicum interns as assistant teachers, others do not, so the student may have to volunteer at a school in order to complete their Practicum phase. If a student plans to intern at a particular school, arrangements should be made with the school prior to signing up for this program. Should the student start their Practicum in January, the Practicum site must have a 12-month Montessori program.
10. How long does it take to finish the program?

The program takes about two years to complete. It usually begins with the Academic phase in September of the first year, which ends the following June. There are no classes during the summer. The Practicum phase begins the following September and ends the following May. Should the student not begin with Module I, the Academic phase will end after completing all the Modules. If the student started with Module II or III, the student will complete the Academic phase with Module I or II, and may start the Practicum phase the following January. If the student starts with Module IV, the Academic phase will complete with Module III, and the Practicum phase will begin the following September. The program has some flexibility to accommodate changes in the program due to personal circumstances, which should be discussed with the Program Director.

11. Where do I find the tuition fees?

The tuition fees are listed in the printed MCCC bulletin, in the online version of the bulletin at the MCCC web site (www.mccc.edu), and in the Policies and Procedure Manual, which is available to view and/or download as a separate link.

12. How do I apply and pay for the program?

Apply for the program by downloading and printing the MTTI application and the Policies and Procedure Manual. After you read the Manual, complete the Application, and return it with the documents requested, which include a transcript, two references, an essay, and acknowledgment that you read the Manual, to Ms. Carol Clark, Center for Continuing Studies, Mercer County Community College, 1200 Old Trenton Road, West Windsor, NJ 08550. Then register for the next Module available. As part of the registration process, you will pay for the Module. At the completion of each Module, the student will register for the following Module, paying only for the number of course hours being taught in that Module. You may register for the program prior to completing the Application, but you will not be eligible for the program’s certificate unless the application is complete.

13. May I use a degree from outside the US?

In order to receive a certificate that you have completed the program, your academic background must be verified. The minimum academic requirements is that you have completed the equivalent of a high school education. An original transcript of the highest degree earned must be submitted. If your education was in a country outside of the US, an original evaluation of your credentials will be accepted in place of a transcript (the Application provides more information). Please note that you make take the program without submitting an original transcript or evaluation, but certification for completing the program will not be issued without it.

14. Is there a scholarship available?

There are no scholarships or other financial aid available.
15. What does receiving a certificate mean?

Receiving a certificate means that, after you have completed the Application process, the Program Director has examined your progress through the Academic and Practicum phases and has determined that you have satisfactorily completed the program. A certificate recognizing your achievement will be issued by MCCC. The program is applying for accreditation from a professional organization recognized by the US Department of Education. Should accreditation be received as expected, the certificate will also be recognized by the accrediting organization, which will issue an additional certificate.

16. Will this help me get a job in a Montessori school? In a public school?

MCCC cannot guarantee that obtaining a certificate from Montessori Teacher Training Institute will result in a job in either a Montessori school or a public school. The course follows the guidelines established by professional accrediting organizations, but it is not intended to meet state licensing requirements of a public school teacher. The resources of MCCC will be available to the student in researching and finding a suitable position.