

Become a Montessori Educator

Teacher Education Programs & Credentials

Studying to become a Montessori teacher typically takes one to two years, and includes a nine-month practicum. Completion of the Montessori credential course takes place at a teacher education program. Courses may be in-person, or in a blended format (in-person + online). You will work alongside your cohort and engage in invigorating classroom discussion as well as practice on the proper use of Montessori materials. As part of your studies, you create Montessori albums (i.e., teaching manuals for the various curricular areas); read texts and journal articles; write reports; observe students in programs; create a yearlong project; and more.

The practicum is a nine-month experience with children or adolescents in a Montessori classroom. Mentors will guide your practice and support your growth as a professional educator.

As a successful graduate of an AMS-affiliated teacher education program, you will be awarded an AMS credential—a highly desirable and marketable indicator of your qualifications as a Montessori educator, which can open doors to job opportunities around the world.

How to Get Started

AMS-affiliated teacher education programs (TEPs) offer the finest professional preparation available for Montessori teachers and administrators.

Search our directory of teacher education programs to find the one that meets your needs and interests. Many programs are independent organizations and others are programs that operate within schools, giving you the opportunity to complete your practicum on-site.

Join a community of highly skilled, educators around the world that have a passion for Montessori philosophy. Explore the teacher education programs near you.

Scan to visit our directory of AMS-affiliated teacher education programs. >



amshq.org/TeachMontessori



MONTESSORI CREDENTIAL COURSE LEVELS

- Infant & Toddler (birth – age 3)
- Early Childhood (ages 2 1/2 – 6)
- Elementary I (ages 6 – 9)
- Elementary II (ages 9 – 12)
- Elementary I – II (ages 6 – 12)
- Secondary I (ages 12 – 15)
- Secondary I – II (ages 12 – 18)
- Administrator

Every year, AMS awards teacher education scholarships to aspiring Montessori teachers in support of their professional growth. Whether you are in the process of applying to an AMS-affiliated TEP program or are already enrolled, you can be eligible to win scholarship support. Funds are awarded based on financial need and applications are collected from February through April.

Available for Infant & Toddler through Secondary I & II course levels.

Become a Montessori Teacher



Where Passion Meets Purpose





Montessori Education

Transforming education around the globe

You may have an idea of what Montessori Education is. You may have seen photos of toddlers pouring water from tiny glass pitchers or pristine wooden shelves with small baskets of objects. You may be able to recognize a Montessori classroom.

But, what exactly is Montessori Education?

For more than a century now, the child-focused approach to education has transformed the lives of children and their teachers. Dr. Maria Montessori, an Italian physician, scientist, and educator, developed the Montessori philosophy and established the first Montessori classroom in 1907 for disadvantaged children whom many had thought were unable to learn. Through her careful observation, curation of the environment, and creation of unique learning materials, the children began to thrive.

These core components of the first classroom stand true today. Montessori is an educational philosophy and practice that fosters rigorous, self-motivated growth for young children and adolescents in all areas of their development—cognitive, emotional, social, and physical. It is grounded in the belief that the child is born capable and has an intrinsic need to learn about the world.

Students embrace multi-sensory learning and passionate inquiry. They follow their own curiosity at their own pace, taking the time they need to fully master each concept and meet individualized learning goals.

Montessori Education helps develop all aspects of the child and the teacher serves as their guide to self realization.

“A child who has become master of his acts through long and repeated exercises, and who has been encouraged by the pleasant and interesting activities in which he has been engaged, is a child filled with health and joy and remarkable for his calmness and discipline.”

—Maria Montessori, *The Discovery of the Child*



The Montessori Teacher

Montessori teachers, often called Montessori guides, are conduits between their students and the vast world of knowledge and discovery that surrounds them. Montessori educators empower students by establishing trusting, respectful relationships that nurture children’s responsibility and joy in their own learning.

These are also elements that enable teachers to thrive in the profession and drive their meaningful work. To be a Montessori teacher is to bear witness to the child’s journey as they become confident, critical thinkers and global citizens.

As a Montessori guide, you combine creativity and compassion with scientific observation and insight to:

- Prepare a rich educational environment designed to create natural opportunities for independence, citizenship, and accountability.
- Utilize Montessori materials to engage the child’s concentration and provide opportunities for hands-on, tactile learning of abstract concepts.
- Observe each student, identify their needs, and respond with appropriate, individualized guidance and instruction.
- Foster a passion for lifelong learning and protect the child’s intrinsic motivation to master the curriculum.



Your professional experience can be applied to several roles in Montessori education and open doors to a lifelong career.

Visit the AMS Jobs Board to explore professional opportunities at AMS-member schools.

jobs.amshq.org



Teaching in a Montessori environment brings about the transformation of the adult and ignites a passion for lifelong learning. This teaching practice is one that strengthens over time as you learn to meet each child where they are, both academically and emotionally. In this environment, there is a delicate balance between the child, the teacher, and the environment, all equally in support of the other.