

Program Overview

The Maryland Graduate Certification Programs: Secondary Master's Certification (MCERT) and Post-Baccalaureate Certification (PBC) are alternative teacher education programs designed for highly educated and capable persons who have completed baccalaureate degrees with a 3.0 GPA or higher in academic fields (additional content courses may be required). The programs support four themes from national and local reform agendas:

1. Inquiry and reflection
2. Teaching for understanding
3. Teaching for diversity
4. Building democratic learning communities

MCERT Curriculum

- Interns complete 12 credits in the intensive summer component aimed at preparing them with a solid foundation for their full-year internship; summer course work includes background studies in adolescent learning, reading/literacy, diversity, and subject matter curriculum and pedagogy.
- Interns are assigned to a 2/3's time assignment in a participating middle or secondary school for the entire school year as the basis for their "field" experience.
- In addition to internship credits, interns take 6-9 credits in supportive course work during the fall and spring terms and 3 credits during the final summer session to complete requirements for certification and the master's degree; their studies include a continuous strand of studies in subject matter-based curriculum and pedagogy, an emphasis on working with diverse learners, and a commitment to a class/practice-based inquiry project.
- Most graduate courses are offered at convenient sites within the counties or on campus.

Full-Year Internship Component in the Secondary MCERT Program Areas

- All secondary graduate interns are assigned independent and/or apprentice teaching duties in classes in their certification area for no more than 2/3 of a school day for the full school year. Usually, this means an assignment to independent and/or apprentice teaching for four classes per day. Nevertheless, graduate interns are encouraged to be at school the entire day and to participate as staff members in a variety of school activities.
- All secondary graduate interns are assigned a school-based mentor, an experienced certified teacher in the student's area of certification.
- In addition, all graduate interns receive support during the school year from a university-based supervisor and a subject-based coordinator who are experienced educators in the area of the intern's certification field.

- Whenever possible, graduate interns are placed in clusters within a department in a professional development school as part of building a peer-support network in addition to the mentor and university supervisor.
- The conditions and scope of the paid Internship are defined by a Memorandum of Understanding agreed to by the University of Maryland College Park (UMCP), Montgomery County Public Schools (MCPS) or Prince George's County Public Schools (PGCPS) and the MCERT program. These paid internships have been approved by Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). The specific conditions and scope of the Agreement are renegotiated annually.

Paid Internship

EDCI in cooperation with MCPS or PGCPS make available to selected students a paid internship opportunity for Secondary Education Interns in the disciplines of English, Foreign Language, Mathematics, and Science. MCERT students in the identified fields interview with MCPS or PGCPS during the summer and, if selected by MCPS or PGCPS, are eligible for compensation commensurate with the level and nature of their independent teaching duties.

In independent duties, the intern is the teacher of record, although continuing to be supervised in that work by the on-site mentor and the university supervisor; in apprentice duties, the intern works directly with a mentor, who remains as the teacher of record. In this Paid Internship:

- Secondary certification graduate interns are employed by MCPS or PGCPS proportionally at long-term substitute rate for the independent teaching assignments they take on; these are limited to two or three classes per day for the school year; this makes it possible for two interns to share one regular full-time teaching position.
- Secondary certification graduate interns apprentice with a mentor in their subject area, preferably in an assignment similar to that in which they do their independent teaching; they apprentice in one or two classes per day, depending on the number of independent teaching assignments they have.

Unpaid Internships

This option is for Secondary Interns who do not receive paid internships because: their subject area is not in an area of high need (i.e., Social Studies, Art); there are more interns in a content area than MCPS or PGCPS have openings for as employees in their system; or they do not want to accept a paid internship.

In the Unpaid Internship Option:

- Secondary certification graduate interns apprentice three to four classes per day for the entire school year under the direct supervision of an appropriate mentor teacher, who remains as the teacher of record throughout the year.
- Graduate interns are encouraged to be at school the entire day and to participate as staff members in a variety of school activities, but they are formally assigned teaching duties for no more than 2/3 of school day.

Post-Baccalaureate Certification Only (PBC) Curriculum

Students may enroll in the PBC in two ways. They may take only the courses in the MCERT Program required for certification, or they may complete their certification through an observation-student teaching model. In this latter model, students take some of the coursework together with MCERT students, but their school-based experience is focused in a 2-day per week observation/assistance experience in Fall Semester and a full-time student teaching experience in the Spring Semester.

In the spring semester students will enroll in additional coursework. In their school setting, they work directly under the guidance of a mentor teacher throughout the experience; they are also supported throughout by a university supervisor and content area coordinator from the University. Students in the PBC option may complete requirements for the master's degree with certification either during the PBC study period or within one year afterwards by completing the additional courses needed to fulfill the requirements of the master's degree.

For further information, visit:

<http://www.edci.umd.edu/MCERT>
or contact:

Dr. Kathleen A. Travers

Coordinator of Secondary Certification Programs
2311 Benjamin Building
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-1175
301.405.3140

Email: ktravers@umd.edu
or

Rose Savitsky

MCert Program Specialist
2311 Benjamin Building
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-1175
301.405.4448

Email: MCERT@umd.edu