

Program Overview

The Maryland Graduate Certification Program (MCERT) for Elementary Education is an alternative teacher education program designed for highly educated and capable persons who have completed baccalaureate degrees in a variety of academic fields. This is an Outreach Program, which means the courses are held at alternative sites in surrounding counties.

MCERT: Elementary is a 13-month, full-time program that leads to a Master's of Education (M.Ed.) degree as well as eligibility for Maryland State certification to teach in elementary schools (Maryland has reciprocity with most states. An updated reciprocity list can be viewed at: http://www.education.umd.edu/studentinfo/teacher_certification/reciprocalcertification.html).

Teacher candidates start their studies in June and finish in August of the following year. This translates into two four-week summer school sessions, two full-time academic year semesters and one final summer school session. The scheduling of these courses may change from one year to the next.

The program supports 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

The curriculum for the elementary MCERT program is anchored by a series of content-area methods courses including: reading, language arts, science, math, and social science. In addition, students will engage in a two-part diversity course sequence, an action research course, and a culminating capstone course on students' roles as professionals who are serving as public-school teachers in a pluralist democracy.

Full-Year Internship Component in the MCERT: Elementary Education Program Areas

- All graduate interns are assigned apprentice teaching duties in elementary schools in neighboring counties for 2 full days during the fall semester and for 16 weeks during the spring semester. The full-year internship, as required by the Maryland State Department of Education, encompasses 100+ days of school-based experience in a participating Professional Development School.
- All graduate interns are assigned a school-based mentor, an experienced certified teacher in the student's area of certification.
- All graduate interns also receive support during the school year from a university-based supervisor who is an experienced educator in the field of elementary education.
- Whenever possible, graduate interns are placed in clusters in a professional development school as part of building a peer-support network in addition to the mentor and university supervisor.

Admission Criteria

The program is highly competitive and accepts cohorts of about 25 to 30 elementary education students each year. Requirements include:

- A bachelor's degree with a minimum G.P.A. of 3.0 from an accredited institution
- Demonstration of a clear commitment to teaching
- Personal characteristics suitable to teaching
- Passing Praxis I and the Praxis II (content knowledge portion only) PRIOR to beginning the program. It is preferred that applicants pass these tests prior to application. If not, and you are admitted, you will be given provisional admission to meet this requirement prior to the start of the program.

- Elementary Education applicants will be required to satisfy some additional math requirements. For details visit: <http://www.education.umd.edu/EDCI/info/mcp-prreq.html>

Application Procedures

Applications are available on-line at www.gradschool.umd.edu.

Applicants must submit application fee, three letters of recommendation, transcripts of all academic work, a statement of experiences, a statement of goals and interests, residency classification form, plus Praxis Test Scores.

The Proposed Department or Program is Curriculum and Instruction. Under the area of specialization, applicants should indicate MCERT: Elementary.

For further information, visit: <http://www.education.umd.edu/EDCI/MCERT> or contact:

Dr. Jean Snell

Coordinator of Elementary
Master's Certification Program
2311 Benjamin Building
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742-1175
301.405.4959
jsnell@umd.edu

or

Rose Savitsky

MCERT Program Specialist
2311 Benjamin Building
University of Maryland
College Park, MD 20742
301.405.4448
MCERT@umd.edu