



COLLEGE OF
EDUCATION

Master's Certification Program (MCERT)

ADMISSION HANDBOOK

[Revised Sept. 2020]

Table of Contents

Contacts	3
MCERT Program Website: go.umd.edu/mcert	
MCERT Twitter: @MCERT1	
Word from the Program Director	4
What is MCERT?	5
Program Advantages	5
Internship & Coursework	7
Certification Areas	8
Admission	9
Course Prerequisites	10
Application	15
Application Deadlines	15
Preliminary Transcript Review	15
Application Interview	15
Application Materials	16
Documents to Upload	16
Praxis II	20
Praxis Test Codes	20
Program Cost	22
Financial Aid & Scholarships	24
Housing	26
Health Insurance	26
Immunization	26

CONTACTS

The University of Maryland, College Park

UMD College of Education Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership (TLPL)

MCERT Program Website: go.umd.edu/mcert

Admissions and Preliminary Transcript Review:

Office of Student Services

1204 Benjamin Building

Tel: (301) 405-2364

Email: ed-advising@umd.edu

Admissions and General MCERT Program Information:

Amparo Acevedo Program Coordinator, MCERT & Outreach

2311 Benjamin Building Tel: (301-405-4448)

Email: mcert@umd.edu or

aaceve2@umd.edu

Application deadlines:

Applications must be submitted by the dates listed:

(All due dates are prior to June of the planned year of entry.)

- November 1: Priority deadline for all applicants
- March 1: Final deadline for all other applications

Note to international students: The MCERT Program does NOT comply with regulations required for issuance of I-20, due to its non-standard program dates and course dates.

Financial Aid deadline: The priority deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is February 15 of each year. Visit: www.fafsa.ed.gov.

UM Master's Certification (MCERT) Admissions Handbook

Greetings Prospective MCERTers;

At the University of Maryland, College of Education, we are delighted that you are considering becoming a teacher through our Master's Certification (MCERT) Program. Teaching is a wonderfully complex and rewarding enterprise, and the UMCP MCERT Program provides teacher candidates with the opportunity to gain an abundance of experience in transforming their content-area expertise into engaging pedagogy for school-aged children and adolescents. To consider MCERT is to consider giving oneself the opportunity to acquire the foundation from which one can become an excellent teacher.

The MCERT Program has a long and rich tradition as an intensive graduate teacher- preparation program. In one year, MCERT students complete 36 to 39 credits of graduate coursework and a year-long internship. Our students graduate with a Master's degree from a nationally-ranked public university and eligibility for Maryland-state certification.

What sets the MCERT Program apart from other teacher preparation programs in the area is the program's commitment to preparing students to work effectively with diverse students, to attend closely to student thinking, and to be empowered decision-makers in the classroom.

As the flagship state university in Maryland, the graduates of the MCERT program primarily serve the public school classrooms in the counties immediately surrounding Washington, DC, including Prince George's, Montgomery, Howard, and Anne Arundel. Though that is where many graduates choose to teach, we have several graduates across the United States and who are teaching in other countries. Furthermore, as graduates from the MCERT program, all teacher candidates are well-prepared to consider continued educational opportunities at the University of Maryland, including our Doctoral programs.

Please use this MCERT Admissions Handbook as a resource to apply to the UMD MCERT Program. I look forward to meeting many of you when you come to campus and interview with us and interacting with the next cohort of MCERTers at our opening Orientation next summer.

Cordially,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Ebony Terrell Shockley". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Ebony Terrell Shockley, Ph.D., Director, MCERT Program

What is MCERT?

The Master's Certification Program (MCERT) is a one-year graduate-level teacher preparation program that leads to elementary, middle school, secondary or PreK-12 teacher certification and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree. Grade level/content area specializations include Art, Elementary Education, English, Mathematics, Middle School Math and Science, Physical Education, Secondary Sciences (Agricultural and Extension Education, Biology, Chemistry, Computer Science, Earth/Space Science, Physics), Social Studies, TESOL (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages), and World Languages (Chinese, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, Spanish).

The MCERT program provides an **intensive, full-time** experience that integrates both theory and practice in a school-based program. Interns will be engaged in learning and teaching activities at a school site during the weekdays. In addition, interns will attend pedagogy and education courses on two evenings a week. The demands of this compact, intensive experience preclude MCERT interns from employment or graduate assistantships during the internship year. The MCERT program is offered only on an intensive full-time basis; there is no part-time option, and though we do offer some online coursework, we do not offer a distance-learning program.

Program Advantages

Graduate-Level Degree Program

The Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership (TLPL) at the University of Maryland College Park is ranked 12th in the nation by U.S. News & World Report. MCERT students receive instruction from high-caliber faculty and explore in-depth opportunities to connect content and pedagogy. MCERT students participate in a year-long inquiry project (in lieu of a thesis), which culminates into the writing of a graduate seminar paper. MCERT students present their research at the end of the program. In addition, all MCERT students produce a teaching portfolio (in lieu of a master's comprehensive examination).

Intensive Mentored Internships Throughout the entire internship year, MCERT interns apprentice in classrooms with experienced certified teachers who serve as mentors. The classrooms serve as "learning laboratories" where MCERTers can practice the ideas and concepts that they are studying in their courses and learn the essentials of instructional planning, responsive teaching, embracing diversity, and the ongoing assessment of student learning. In addition, all MCERT 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.

Personalized and Supportive Learning

MCERT interns, also referred to as "teacher candidates" are organized into content area and grade-level cohort groups. These groups work closely with faculty and public school staff, enroll in the same classes, and participate in an ongoing peer-support network for interactive learning and support through a seminar course. The seminar experiences provide instruction that complements the internship.

School Partnerships

Created in 1985, MCERT has expanded to encompass partnerships with four neighboring school districts: Anne Arundel, Howard, Montgomery, and Prince George's counties. Select partners from these school districts, in which we have 25 school sites, join university faculty in the development of the program curriculum. MCERT interns study in Professional Development (PDS) schools across these four districts

Professional Accreditation

The College of Education is fully accredited by the Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP), and our programs are approved by the Maryland State Department of Education. MCERT provides all requirements for Maryland State Certification, combining the rigorous coursework and content/grade level-specific internship (student teaching). Upon successful completion of the program, we recommend that interns submit documentation to the Maryland State Department of Education for licensure.

Location

The University of Maryland's reputation and location near Washington, D.C. provides students with a wealth of opportunities to work in diverse school districts, collaborate with educational associations, and engage in meaningful, practical research.

Conceptual Framework

The College of Education requires that all graduates demonstrate these four core proficiencies:

- a. Candidates demonstrate competency in their knowledge of subject matter, curriculum, pedagogy, and content knowledge.
- b. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of learners and their social and cultural contexts with a global perspective and intentional sensitivity to other cultures.
- c. Candidates practice evidence-based decision-making through the use of assessment as well as the critical interpretation of research and inquiry to improve educational practice.
- d. Candidates competently integrate technology in instruction to support student learning and develop data-driven solutions for instructional and school improvement.

These proficiencies ensure that our graduates will be ready to embrace their responsibilities for advancing the learning and development of their PK-16 students,

advocating for students in the school districts and classrooms where they work, and leading others towards the same goals.

Internship & Coursework

The MCERT internship is a single-site, full-year internship with placements primarily in one of four counties, Anne Arundel (AACPS), Prince George's (PGCPS), Howard (HCPSS) or Montgomery (MCPS). Some of our programs place in other counties based on the distinct nature of the discipline and the opportunities afforded by the school districts.

While we will take your geographical preferences and commuting distances into consideration, we *cannot guarantee* a placement location based on your requests. Final assignments occur as a cumulative assessment of several factors, including the availability of mentor teachers, the intern's certification choice, and the equity of the commute for all cohort members.

Interns are expected at the school site the entire day and participate as staff members in various school activities. They are formally assigned apprentice teaching duties for no more than 1/2 of the school day (this alters by program and depends on whether internships are virtual or face-to-face). Secondary certification interns apprentice for the entire school year, three days per week in the fall, and every day in the spring, under the direct supervision of a mentor teacher who remains the teacher of record throughout the year.

PreK-12 Dual Internship Placements

Since Art, Physical Education, TESOL, and World Languages are PreK-12 certification areas, the field experience for MCERT Art, Physical Education, TESOL, and World Languages students includes dual internship placements in both an elementary and a secondary school.

Off-Campus Class Meetings

In addition to the yearlong teaching internship, students take classes on two evenings a week. Classes may take place in professional development centers or schools in the partner counties.

Important Note: Given the wide-ranging selection of PDS internship sites and the location of classes, the MCERT Team strongly advises that students have a car available to them during the course of the MCERT program. Even though we will try to keep your commute to a minimum, a fair amount of driving will be required to participate in this program.

Certification Areas

Elementary Level (Grades 1-6)	General Education
Middle School Level (Grades 4-9)	Mathematics Science
Secondary Level (Grades 7-12)	Computer Science English Mathematics Sciences <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Agricultural and Extension Education• Biology• Chemistry• Earth/Space Science• Physics Social Studies
PreK-12 Level (All grades)	Art Physical Education TESOL World Languages <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Chinese• French• German• Italian• Latin• Russian• Spanish

Because we align the program to meet the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE) teacher certification requirements, each intern pursues a course of study suited to his, her, or their certification or content area. Each applicant must apply to the program with a specific certification goal in mind, selected from the options listed above. MCERT coursework connects closely with work in the classroom. Therefore, education courses taken prior to the beginning of the internship year **may not serve** as a substitution for

MCERT courses. Please email a member of the MCERT Team for questions.

Admission

Admission to MCERT is selective. The faculty review committee uses the following three criteria to evaluate applications:

Academic Preparation

Applicants must show excellence in the completion of an undergraduate degree in an appropriate academic discipline. We are looking for students with a minimum GPA of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale from their baccalaureate degree. Moreover, applicants must have completed the required academic content for the intended certification area. However, the completion of the requirements can still be in progress at the time of the application. (See Course Prerequisites) Applicants, who do not meet the 3.0 GPA requirement but are in the range of 2.8-2.99 or have successfully completed a graduate degree, are still encouraged to apply as applicants are evaluated based on a combination of grades, professional experiences, and outlook on teaching.

Relevant Experience with Children or Young Adults

It is critical that applicants have some experience working with children in the appropriate age group as evidence that they are prepared to make an informed commitment to the teaching profession. Appropriate activities can include coaching, mentoring, tutoring, volunteering, substitute teaching in a local school, or other relevant experiences.

Professional Potential

The MCERT program is looking for candidates who demonstrate the following:

- A learner-centered educational philosophy
- Self-knowledge, maturity, and sensitivity toward others
- Ability to adapt to, and learn from, new and challenging situations
- Written and oral communication skills

There is no "typical" MCERT student. Individuals come to MCERT from a wide variety of backgrounds and with a broad array of life experiences. Our previous students have graduated from UMD or other institutions, changed careers or entered this program after years out of the workforce and educational environment.

The MCERT Team designed the program with the expectation that prospective students enter the program with competence in their subject matter and have completed the state-required *academic* courses relevant to their field. However, because we designed the MCERT program to provide students with opportunities to acquire all *professional* requirements for certification, no formal teaching experience is needed before entering the program. On the other hand, candidates must have experience working directly with children or adolescents, such as camp counseling, coaching, and tutoring. This work should be in the appropriate

age group of what you want to teach.

Course Prerequisites

Elementary Education

Bachelor's degree from an accredited four-year institution with courses in sciences, mathematics, English language and literature, social sciences, and the arts:

- Sciences (e.g., biological, physical, chemical, earth, environmental, computer science)
 - 9 credits
- Science Lab
 - 1 credit
- Mathematics
 - 9 credits
 - 3 credits Algebra
 - 3 credits Geometry
 - 3 credits Statistics
 - Any Statistics course will suffice
- English Composition Literature (English, America, World, Latin, Asian, Africa, etc.)
 - 3 credits
- History
 - 3 credits
- Sociology/Psychology/Anthropology/ Economics/Government
 - 3 credits
- Art/Music/Dance/Theatre
 - 3 credits
- Health/Wellness
 - 3 credits
- Physical Education/Skills
 - 1 credit

Students can enroll at any 2-year or 4-year accredited college, university, or online for prerequisite coursework.

For example:

- University of Maryland, College Park
Math 113 or 212, Math 213, Math 214

- Montgomery College
Math 130, Math 131, Math 132

- Teacher Step (Online)
MPD 515, MTE 535

- Straighter Line (Online)
BIO 101, BIO 1010L

Please note that students must earn at least a "C" in their prerequisites.

Middle School Education

Mathematics

Number and Operations
Geometry
Probability/Statistics
Algebra
Reasoning, Justification, Proof

Science

Biology
Chemistry
Physics
Earth Science or Space
Science Math or Science Elective

Secondary Education

Computer Science. Applicants should contact Terrapin Teachers (tt@umd.edu)

English (At least 36 credits in English. Applicants can use some communication/ language/ theater classes, but the focus should be on Literature)

Literary Criticism/ Critical Theory
American and British Literature (evidence in both)
World Literature
Advanced Writing (beyond freshman level)
Shakespeare
English Language/Linguistics
English/Communication/Theater/Media Electives
Women/ Minority Literature
Speech and Rhetoric

Social Studies (Major in a discipline that falls under the umbrella of the Social Studies: History, Government, Geography, Economics, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, International Relations, and related fields.

Note: Reviewers of applicants with a major in a more loosely related field may consider if they have a minor or minor equivalency in History, Government, Geography, or Economics. The following courses, plus up to 18 more in History, Government, Geography, or Economics, must be completed to equal a minimum of 30 credits total.

3 History Courses:

- One U.S. History Course
- One European History Course
- One non-European History Course (i.e., Africa, Asia, Latin America, Middle East)

1 Government Course (preferably American Government)

1 Geography Course (preferably Human Geography)

UM Master's Certification (MCERT) Admissions Handbook

1 Economics Course

1 Behavioral Sciences Course (i.e., Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology)

Mathematics

Calculus I

Calculus II

Multivariable Calculus

Differential Equations

Linear Algebra

Advanced Calculus (Analysis)

Statistics/Probability Theory

Abstract Algebra/Modern Algebra

Note: Coursework in Euclidean/Non-Euclidean Geometry, Discrete Mathematics, Mathematical Modeling, and Number Theory is recommended but not required. Reviewers will also consider applicants with majors in related fields such as Statistics, Physics, Computer Science, and Engineering.

Agricultural and Extension Education

Animal Science and Lab

Animal/Livestock Management class (Dairy, Horse, Poultry, etc.)

Intro to Horticulture or Crop Science

Intro Soil Science

Fundamentals of Ag Mechanics

Food Science

Elements of Ag & Resource Econ or Farm Management and Sustainable Food Production

Youth & Career Development course

Extension and Ag Literacy Course

Plant Pathology

Weed Science

Entomology Requirement

Chemistry & Lab

Biology 1 & Lab

Plant Structure and Function

Power & Technical systems requirement

Natural Resources requirement

Biology

Principles of Biology I

Principles of Biology II

Principles of Genetics

Biological Diversity Course

General Chemistry I

General Chemistry II

Organic Chemistry I

Organic Chemistry II

Calculus I Calculus II

Physics I

Physics I

Advanced Program Specialization Courses:

- Cell Biology & Genetics
- Ecology & Evolution
- General Biology
- Microbiology
- Physiology & Neurobiology

Chemistry

General and Analytical Chemistry
General and Inorganic Chemistry
Principles of Organic Chem I
Principles of Organic Chem II
Inorganic & Analytical Chemistry Lab
Physical Chemistry I
Physical Chemistry II
Physical Chemistry Laboratory I
Inorganic Chemistry
Prof Issues in Chemistry & Biochemistry
Instrumental Methods of Analysis
Physical Chemistry Laboratory II
Principles of Biology I
Principles of Physics I
Principles of Physics II
Calculus I & II

Physics

Introductory Physics: Mechanics and Relativity
Introductory Physics: Fields
Introductory Physics: Waves
Experimental Physics I: Mechanics, Heat & Fields
Experimental Physics II: Electricity and Magnetism
Physics Laboratory Introduction
Intermediate Electricity and Magnetism
Intermediate Theoretical Methods
PHYS Quantum Physics or Principles or Modern Physics
Calculus I
Calculus II
Linear Algebra
Calculus III
Differential Equations

PreK-12 Education

Art (Portfolio required)

- 3 Drawing
- Art Theory
- Art 2D Fundamentals
- Art 3D Fundamentals
- Printmaking
- Ceramics
- 2 Painting
- Other Visual Art Areas
- 4 Art History

Physical Education

- Exercise Physiology
- Biomechanics
- Motor Learning
- Motor Development (knowledge of acquisition of motor skills)
- Psychology of Sport and Physical Activity
- Diversity and Cultural Competence
- Activity Course- 3 sports and 2 physical activities

World Languages (if you are fluent but do not have the classes, please contact an advisor)

- Reading and Writing in WLL
- Advanced Grammar and Composition I (Grammar and Comp)
- Advanced Grammar and Comp II (Advanced Composition)
- Advanced Conversation I
- Linguistics I
- Linguistics II
- Phonetics
- 2 Literature classes
- 2 Civilization classes
- 2 Upper-Level FL Literature classes

Application

Application Deadlines

Applications must be submitted by the dates listed:
(All dates are prior to June of the planned year of entry.)

- November 1: Priority deadline for all applicants
- March 1: Final deadline for all other applications

Note to international students: The MCERT Program does NOT comply with regulations required for issuance of I-20, due to its non-standard program dates and course dates

Preliminary Transcript Review

Applicants can have their transcripts reviewed to confirm prerequisite completion in the content area of interest. Due to the Graduate School's required credential review, we do not provide preliminary transcript reviews for international transcripts. Students must complete any missing credits or courses before the start of the program.

To get a preliminary transcript review:

- Send your unofficial transcripts as an email attachment to ed-advising@umd.edu
- Indicate your content area of interest
- Send your contact information

Important Note: You still can apply and submit your application without a preliminary transcript review or without entirely completing prerequisite courses.

Application Interview

The MCERT Coordinator will review all completed MCERT application folders and forward them to the content-area units for a more in-depth review. All candidates who meet the program qualifications in terms of content-area preparation, undergraduate GPA, passing Praxis Core scores, and overall suitability for the program will receive an interview by members of the College and MCERT faculty.

Those who submit applications by November 1st will be interviewed in late November to early December and notified of the department's admission recommendation by January 1st. For those who submit applications by March 1st will be interviewed in March and notified of the department's admission recommendation in April.

Reviewers expect candidates for Art to bring a portfolio to their MCERT admission interview. All MCERT candidates are encouraged to provide a copy of their resume to the interview team.

Application Materials

It is the applicants' responsibility to make sure that all application materials have been acquired from the appropriate people and submitted to the correct persons or departments. Please note that insufficient documentation or failure to adhere to deadlines will delay or hinder your application from being processed. We highly recommended that you periodically verify that the UMD Graduate School received your application materials. Once we receive a complete application to the MCERT program, we will interview eligible candidates.

Application Materials:

1)UMD Application Fee

- a. The non-refundable application fee is \$75 (subject to change)
- b. Make payments online at the time of application for your application to be "submitted."

2)UMD Application for Admission to Graduate School

http://www.gradschool.umd.edu/welcome/apply_now.html

The MCERT Program appears under the *Education Department of Curriculum and Instruction (EDCI)* in the application. **Please make certain to select the correct program and term for which you are applying. This will ensure the appropriate admission committee reviews your application.**

Application Type:	Degree
Level of Study:	Master's
Intended Program:	Curriculum and Instruction (EDCI)
Term of Entrance:	Summer I (MCERT ONLY begins in the summer) Fall (IMCP ONLY begins in fall).
Program of Study:	Curriculum and Instruction (EDCI)
College/School:	College of Education
Area of Interest 1:	<u>Maryland Master's Certification program (MCERT) or</u> <u>Integrated Masters Certification Program (Off-Campus/1yr) (IMCP)</u>
Area of Interest 2:	Choose the content area you would like to teach (Ex: Elementary or Math or English, etc.). (NOTE: This selection is required to determine who reviews your application. If not selected, there may be a delay with the processing of your application.)

Documents to Upload

Applicants must upload all the required documents before submitting the application. With any missing material, the reviewers will deem the application is incomplete. Documents required to upload are 1) Transcripts, 2) Statement of Purpose, 3) Resume, 4) Recommendation Letters, and 5) Basic skills test scores.

1) Transcripts

The University requires official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended and listed in the application. The program does not require a transcript for an institution where students enrolled for six credits or less, unless the coursework applies to content prerequisites.

For application purposes, applicants should upload a copy of the official transcript(s). UMD students can upload an unofficial transcript from Testudo. All uploaded transcripts are considered unofficial. Upon admission into the program, the Graduate School requires official transcripts. Official transcripts must be sent directly from the institutions attended or submitted in a sealed envelope or via parchment services to:

The Graduate School
University of Maryland
2123 Lee Building,
College Park, MD 20742

(Please do not send official transcripts to the College of Education or to the program).

2) Statement of Purpose

Please use the listed prompts, not the questions on the Graduate School application:

For Elementary Candidates ONLY. Submit a 1,000-2,000 word essay that addresses the following three prompts. Be sure to respond carefully to each and every prompt.

- What it means to be a good teacher to all students
- What one needs to know and be able to do to become a good teacher
- What I need to learn to be a good teacher

For Secondary and PK-12 Candidates. Submit a 1,000-2,000 word essay that describes your understanding of the role of the public school teacher. Limit your discussion to a specific academic discipline that you are interested in teaching. Be sure to address the following:

- What a good teacher knows and is able to do
- What teaching a diverse population means to you
- Specific experiences you have had that give you the foundation to become such a teacher
- What you hope to learn from this program in order to become such a teacher
- Your academic, professional, and extracurricular experiences that led to your decision to apply

For Chinese Education Candidates ONLY. Relevant Experience in Chinese Language, Linguistics, Literature, Culture, or History outside of your Undergraduate Courses.

Have you had any work experiences or life experiences with Chinese language, linguistics, literature, culture, or history outside of your undergraduate courses? Examples: teaching Chinese to native English speakers in China using an approved curriculum, working in a Chinese history museum, serving as a

cultural tour guide in China. In some cases, such experience might substitute for specific required undergraduate courses in Chinese language, linguistics, literature, culture, or history for admissions purposes. Please write about ANY experiences you have had in these areas outside of your undergraduate courses. For each relevant experience, (a) tell us what you did, (b) what you learned from it, (c) the dates (beginning and ending), (d) the name and place of the institution, and (e) anything else you think we should know about your relevant experience in Chinese language, linguistics, literature, culture, or history outside of your undergraduate courses. Please use additional pages if necessary.

3) **Resume**

Please upload the most current resume that includes academic, professional, and volunteer experience and involvement with children and young adults. It is okay to include information that otherwise would not go on a professional resume. We will evaluate previous experience based on the following:

- Show experience working with children or youth in the age group you are interested in teaching.
- Show experience working in tutoring, coaching, or other instructional settings with children or youth.
- Show experience working with children or youth identified as individuals with disabilities, from non-dominant ethnic and cultural communities, speakers of languages other than English, or immigrant families.

4) **Three Letters of Recommendation**

Include the names and emails of three recommendation providers as required in the application. Once the applicant saves the information, an email will go to the letter providers with instructions on how to upload a letter. The three letters of recommendation should reflect the applicant's academic ability to succeed in graduate study and/or potential as a professional teacher. The letters should address your character and your organizational skills. At least one should be from a faculty member familiar with your academic work. In addition, MCERT requires one letter of recommendation that articulates your experience(s) working with children or young adults. If you are no longer in touch with a professor, you should obtain another letter from someone who is familiar with your work with kids, adolescents, or teens. Letters from friends and family members are not appropriate.

5) **Basic Skills Test Scores**

Teacher Candidates applying for certification in all academic content areas must demonstrate mastery of basic reading, writing, and math skills. **Those teacher candidates who submit a minimum overall GPA of 3.0 on their most recently earned degree are not required to submit a basic skills assessment.** Other applicants must take one of the following exams and meet the required Maryland Department of Education (MSDE) cut-off scores. If taking the Praxis CORE exam, you must pass each of the three individual sections. We will not grant conditional or provisional admissions for applicants pending the

UM Master's Certification (MCERT) Admissions Handbook

successful completion of the Praxis exam **who do not have a 3.0 grade point average**. However, we will review an applicants' file for admission if they have passed at least 2 out of 3 of the Praxis sections. Applicants can upload test score reports to one of the supplementary slots in the application.

Passing scores of basic skills tests are:

Test	Test Code	MD Score
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Version 2019) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (sr - 85 minutes) and • Writing (sr & cr – 100 minutes) and • Mathematics (sr – 85 minutes) 	5713 5723 5733	156 162 150
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (sr - 85 minutes) and • Writing (sr & cr – 100 minutes) and • Mathematics (sr – 85 minutes) 	5712 5722 5732	156 162 150
Praxis I: PPST/CPST (Before September 1, 2014) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reading (sr - 85 minutes) and • Writing (sr & cr – 100 minutes) and • Mathematics (sr – 85 minutes) 	5712 5720 5730	177 173 177
SAT (prior to April 1995) (math and verbal)	-	1000
SAT (April 1995 – December 31, 2018) (math and verbal OR math and critical reading)	-	1100
SAT (on/after January 1, 2019) (Evidence-Based Reading & Writing and Math)	-	1180
GRE (prior to September 1, 2011) (math and verbal)	-	1000
GRE (taken as of September 1, 2011) (math and verbal)	-	297
ACT	-	24

6) TOEFL Official Scores

UMD requires TOEFL scores for applicants whose first language is not English. The requirement is waived for students who earned their bachelor's at an English-speaking university. TOEFL scores must be sent directly from the testing agency ETS to UMD (Recipient Code: **5814**).

7) **OPI Scores**

The OPI applies only to candidates for the World Languages program. Advanced Low is required by July.

Praxis II

MCERT students must pass the Praxis II Content Knowledge tests prior to the beginning of the program in early June. Any student who has not passed the examination must ask for an exception to policy with the understanding that we cannot guarantee to grant the request.

Exceptions: MCERT students in Art, TESOL, and Physical Education take the test during the program.

Praxis Test Codes

In order to sign up for the right Praxis II tests, see the content-specific test codes, titles, and passing scores required by Maryland below. The same information is available on the testing center ETS website at www.ets.org/praxis.

LICENSURE AREA	TEST REQUIRED	TEST CODE	MD SCORE
Agriculture	Agriculture	5701	147
Art	Art: Content and Analysis	5135	161
Biology	Biology: Content Knowledge	5235	150
Chemistry	Chemistry: Content Knowledge	5245	153
Chinese Mandarin	Chinese (Mandarin)	5665	165
Computer Science	Computer Science	5652	149
Earth/Space Science	Earth/Science: Content Knowledge	5571	152
Elementary Education	Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching	7811	
	Subtests:		
	Reading and Language Arts	7812	161
	Mathematics	7813	150
	Science	7814	154
	Social Studies	7815	161
	Teaching Reading: Elementary	5205	159

UM Master's Certification (MCERT) Admissions Handbook

English	English Language, Arts Content: and Analysis	5039	168
ESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages	5362	163
	Teaching Reading: Elementary	5205	159
French	World Languages: French	5174	162
German	World Languages: German	5183	163
Latin	Latin	5601	152
Mathematics	Mathematics: Content Knowledge	5161	160
Physics	Physics: Content Knowledge	5265	143
Physical Education	Physical Education: Content and Design	5095	169
Social Studies	Social Studies: Content and Interpretation	5086	153
Spanish	World Languages: Spanish	5195	168
Middle School Mathematics	Middle School: Mathematics	5169	165
Middle School Science	Middle School: Science	5440	150

Program Costs

The amounts in the charts below reflect the tuition and fees of 2019-20 AY. If admitted, you will begin the MCERT program in June 2021, and the tuition and fee rates will be higher than the rates presented in the charts. **The same tuition rate applies regardless of MD residency classification. Contact Amparo Acevedo, aaceve2@umd.edu, with questions.**

Elementary: 36 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	11 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,041	14 credits x \$731/credit = \$10,234	11 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,041	\$26,316
Internship fee		\$375	\$375	\$750
Technology fee		\$153	\$153	\$306
Fingerprinting	\$60 (varied by county)			\$60
LiveText		\$139		\$139
Praxis II Reading Test		\$150		\$150
				approx. \$27,721
Plus, books, transportation, and other living costs to consider				

Secondary & PreK-12: 36 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	12 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,772	12 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,772	12 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,772	\$26,316
Internship fee		\$375	\$375	\$750
Technology fee		\$153	\$153	\$306
Fingerprinting	\$60 (varied by county)			\$60
LiveText		\$139		\$139
				approx. \$27,571
Praxis II (Art, PE Only)		\$150		
Plus, books, transportation, and other living costs to consider				

Middle School: 38 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	12 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,772	14 credits x \$731/credit = \$10,234	12 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,772	\$27,778
Internship fee		\$375	\$375	\$750
Technology fee		\$153	\$153	\$306
Fingerprinting	\$60 (varied by county)			\$60
LiveText		\$139		\$139
				approx. \$29,033
Plus, books, transportation, and other living costs to consider				

TESOL: 39 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Winter	Spring	Total
Tuition	15 credits x \$731/credit = \$10,965	10 credits x \$731/credit = \$7,310	3 credits x \$731/credit = \$2,193	11 credits x \$731/credit = \$8,041	\$28,509
Internship fee		\$375		\$375	\$750
Technology fee		\$153		\$153	\$306
Fingerprinting	\$60 (varied by county)				\$60
LiveText		\$139			\$139
Praxis II		\$150			\$150
					approx. \$29,914
Plus, books, transportation, and other living costs to consider					

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Financial Aid

The priority deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is February 15. For detailed information, see <http://www.fafsa.ed.gov>. For questions regarding Financial Aid, please contact the UMD Financial Aid Office at <https://www.financialaid.umd.edu/>, T. 301-314-900.

Scholarships and Grants

COE Scholarships

The College of Education offers \$1,000 scholarship awards to deserving students. Criteria, details, and applications are available online at <https://education.umd.edu/admissions/funding-scholarships#coe-scholarship-application>

Applicants in shortage areas (e.g., STEM) should reach out to Dr. Ebony Terrell Shockley @ eterrell@umd.edu.

Knowles Science Teaching Foundation Fellowships

Knowles awards teaching fellowships to individuals who have received a bachelor's or advanced degree in *science, engineering, or mathematics* and are *committed to teaching high school science and/or mathematics* in U.S. schools. The fellowship supports recipients professionally and financially through a teacher preparation program.

- Fellowship provides the following: tuition assistance, monthly stipend, instructional support, school-site mentor, room, board, and travel expenses for summer professional development and fellows' meetings, membership in a professional organization.
- Fellowships are renewable for five years
- For more information, see www.kstf.org

TEACH Grants

Through the College Cost Reduction and Access Act of 2007, Congress created the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education (TEACH) Grant Program that provides grants of up to \$4,000 per year to students who intend to teach in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves students from low-income families.

- Expected availability for math, science, foreign language, bilingual education, and other high-need areas.
- Provided through the Department of Education
- Must have at least a 3.25 GPA
- Graduate student scholarships available for up to \$8000

UM Master's Certification (MCERT) Admissions Handbook

- Must teach in a high-need school in a high-need field for a minimum of 4 years within eight years after finishing the program
- For more information and to apply
- See <https://studentaid.ed.gov/sa/types/grants-scholarships/teach>

Teacher Loan Forgiveness Program:

After you have been employed as a full-time teacher for five consecutive, complete academic years at a school that is considered low-income according to certain funding criteria under Title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act, you may be eligible for teacher loan forgiveness.

- You must not have had an outstanding balance on a Federal Family Education Loan Program (FFELP) or Federal Direct Loan Program (FDLP) loan as of October 1, 1998, or on the date you obtained an FFELP or FDLP loan after October 1, 1998.
- The loan for which you are seeking forgiveness must have occurred before the end of the fifth year of your qualifying teaching service.
- You may not receive more than a total of \$5,000 (\$17,500 for certain highly qualified secondary math and science teachers, and elementary and secondary special education teachers) in loan forgiveness for outstanding principal and accrued interest for the same teaching service under both the FFELP and the FDLP.
- For more information, see: <http://www.tgslc.org/borrowers/teachers/eligible.cfm>

US Department of Education

- Transition to Teaching Program: provides five-year grants to state and local educational agencies, or for-profit organizations, non-profit organizations, or institutions of higher education collaborating with state or local educational agencies. Program participants are teachers in high-need schools and districts.
- Perkins Loans: provide low-interest loans to help needy students finance the costs of postsecondary education. Borrowers who undertake certain public, military, or teaching service employment are eligible to have all or part of their loans canceled.
- Grants- do not have to be repaid. Click the link below to learn more about grant programs available for eligible students pursuing postsecondary education.
- For more information, see: <https://www2.ed.gov/fund/grants-apply.html?src=ft>

Housing

On-Campus:

You can request graduate housing on campus in a *residence hall*, but undergraduate students receive priority. If you apply, and if space is available, the Housing Office will notify you: <http://reslife.umd.edu/housing/graduate/>

Off-Campus:

Graduate Hills and Graduate Gardens are two all-graduate student apartment communities on University property. The University of Maryland owns the properties, and they are managed on the University's behalf by a property management company.

The Off-Campus Housing (OCH) staff will assist you in searching for various housing options and making well-informed decisions; visit <https://www.och.umd.edu/> or call T. (301) 314-3645.

Health Insurance

All MCERT students are eligible for University Health Insurance, which is United Health Care for Students. For more information, please visit: <https://www.firststudent.com/> and select the University of Maryland, College Park.

Immunization

Students must complete the Immunization Form and submit it to the Health Center. The form and submission directions are available at this link: <https://health.umd.edu/medical-behavioral-health/immunization-clinic>

*Students have one semester to complete this requirement.

**Immunization forms from previous colleges are also acceptable.

(IMCP students do not need to fill out the Immunization form again since the Health Center already has their records from their undergraduate studies).

