M.Ed. In Curriculum & Instruction

Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership
The University of Maryland, College Park
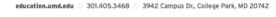

Master's Certification Pathway (MCERT)

MCERT Pathway Website: go.umd.edu/mcert

ADMISSION HANDBOOK
2023-2024

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Quick Info

Admissions and General MCERT Pathway Information:
- Joy Jones, MCERT Pathway Coordinator
- Email: MCERT@umd.edu Or jonesj@umd.edu

MCERT Pathway Website
go.umd.edu/mcert

Graduate School Application
https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying

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

Requests for Preliminary Transcript Review

A preliminary transcript review by the College of Education advising office is required for all MCERT applicants except for applicants to the TESOL specialization & those already admitted as IMCP. The review can be requested online at:

https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_9EVV51GOaZS8Cai

Please submit your request 2 to 4 weeks prior to submitting your Graduate School application. The completed review should be uploaded to your application. NOTE: If your review is not ready in time for you to meet the application deadline, please submit your application then send your completed review to mcert@umd.edu when it becomes available.

International Applicants & US Citizens with international transcripts

The MCERT Pathway is not able to accept international students as it does NOT comply with regulations required for issuance of I-20, due to its non-standard program dates and course dates. However, students with international transcripts who are US citizens/green card are eligible to apply to the MCERT pathway and will need to follow the steps for obtaining a transcript review.

1. Students must apply to the UMD Graduate School.
2. Upon submission of the application and required transcripts documentation, copy of the original language transcript and certificate/diploma along with a literal English translation of each document, will be reviewed by the Graduate School.
3. If the student is admissible, MCERT will request a prelim review from Student Services.

Introduction to Foundational Competencies (FC) & Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE)

All graduate students who are in an approved program leading to initial teacher certification, or advanced certification, in professional preparation programs, are expected to demonstrate that they are prepared to work with children and youth in educational settings. This preparation results from the combination of successful completion of university coursework and field/internship experiences and the demonstration of important human characteristics and dispositions that all educators should possess. Applicants to the MCERT pathway are required to review the Foundational Competencies (FC) & Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) Introduction and submit an acknowledgement survey. A PDF copy of the completed acknowledgement survey must be uploaded to the TerpEngage Application.

https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_bHhjk8jmRtwDL8i

IMCP applicants should upload their Foundational Competencies completed during their undergraduate program in lieu of the acknowledgement survey.

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.

Words from MCERT Leadership Team

Greetings Prospective MCERTers,

Welcome to the College of Education at the University of Maryland! We are delighted that you are considering becoming a teacher through our Master's Certification (MCERT) Pathway. Teaching is a wonderfully complex and rewarding enterprise, and the UMCP MCERT Pathway 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 Pathway 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 Pathway apart from other teacher preparation pathways in the area is our 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 pathway 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 pathway, 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 Pathway. We look forward to meeting many of you when you come to campus and interview with us and interact with the next cohort of MCERTers at our opening Orientation next summer.

Cordially,

The MCERT Leadership Team

What is MCERT

The Master's Certification Pathway 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 Pathway provides an **intensive, full-time** experience that integrates both theory and practice in a schoolbased 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 throughout the week. The demands of this compact, intensive experience preclude MCERT interns from employment or graduate assistantships during the internship year. The MCERT Pathway 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 Curriculum and Instruction program in the Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership (TLPL) at the University of Maryland College Park is ranked 17th 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:

1. Candidates demonstrate competency in their knowledge of subject matter, curriculum, pedagogy, and content knowledge.

2. Candidates demonstrate an understanding of learners and their social and cultural contexts with a global perspective and intentional sensitivity to other cultures.

3. Candidates practice evidence-based decision-making using assessment as well as the critical interpretation of research and inquiry to improve educational practice.

4. Candidates competently integrate technology in instruction to support student earning and develop datadriven 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 program's 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.

On and Off Campus Class Meetings

In addition to the yearlong teaching internship, students take classes on two to three days a week. Most classes will take place at the UMD College Park except for the spring seminar course, which *may* meet at a professional development center or school 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 MCERT Pathway 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
- Agricultural and Extension Education
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth/Space Science
- Physics
- Social Studies

PreK-12 Level (All grades)

- Art
- Physical Education
- TESOL
- World Language
    - Arabic
    - 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.

Admissions

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 Pathway 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 Pathway 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

A preliminary transcript review by the College of Education advising office is required for MCERT applicants who are applying for the following: Art, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. The review can be requested online at https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_9EVV51GOaZS8Cai. Please submit your request 2 to 4 weeks prior to submitting your Graduate School application. The completed review should be uploaded to your application. A transcript review is not required for IMCP applicants.

Elementary Education

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

- Sciences (e.g., biological, physical, chemical, earth, environmental, computer science) - 9 credits
- Mathematics - 9 credits
- English Language & Literature (English, America, World, Latin, Asian, Africa, etc.) - 6 credits
- Social Studies - 6 credits

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

Two pathways; Mathematics OR Science:

<u>Mathematics</u>

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

<u>Science</u>
- Biology
- Chemistry Physics
- Earth Science or Space
- Science Math or Science Elective

Secondary Education

Eight possible pathways; Computer Science, English, Social Studies, Mathematics, Agricultural and Extension Education, Biology, Chemistry, or Physics:

<u>Computer Science</u>

Applicants interested in Computer Science must have an undergraduate degree in Computer Science (or a closely related field like Software Engineering) OR have completed a minimum of 30 credits in Computer Science-related coursework. Applicants should contact Dr. David Weintrop (weintrop@umd.edu)

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

- Literary Criticism (3 cr)
- American and British Literature (evidence in both) (9 cr)
- World Literature (3 cr)
- Advanced Writing (beyond freshman level) (3 cr)
- Shakespeare (3 cr)
- English Language/Linguistics (3 cr)
- English/Communication/Theater (12 cr)
- Theme/Genre Electives (6 cr)
- Speech and Rhetoric (6 cr)
- Women/ Minority Literature (3 cr)

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

Mathematics

A degree in Mathematics or Applied Mathematics with courses such as:

- Calculus
- 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
- 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 & I

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, and Calculus III
- Linear Algebra
- Differential Equations

PreK-12 Education

Four possible pathways; Art, Physical Education, TESOL, and World Languages:

Art (Portfolio required)

- 3 Drawing
- Art Theory
- Art 2D Fundamentals
- Art 3D Fundamentals
- Printmaking
- Ceramics (recommended, but not required)
- 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

TESOL *(Contact program coordinator for information)*

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

  NOTE: February 1: Final deadline for Secondary Social Studies applicants

- March 1: Final deadline for all other applications

Applications received between November 1 and March 1 will be considered on a rolling basis if space is still available in the program.

*Applicants must apply by November 1st for best consideration for scholarships.

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

Preliminary Transcript Review

A preliminary transcript review by the College of Education advising office is **required** for MCERT applicants who are applying for the following: Art, English, Mathematics, Science, Social Studies, and World Languages. The review can be requested online at https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_9EVV51GOaZS8Cai. Please submit your request 2 to 4 weeks prior to submitting your Graduate School application. The completed review should be uploaded to your application. A transcript review is not required for IMCP applicants.

Important to Note: If you do not yet have your completed preliminary transcript when you are ready to submit your application, it is okay to submit your application without it. In that case, please email it to jonesj@umd.edu and we will upload it for you. It is also okay to submit an application without entirely completing all necessary prerequisite courses.

Introduction to Foundational Competencies (FC) & Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE)

All graduate students who are in an approved program leading to initial teacher certification, or advanced certification, in professional preparation programs, are expected to demonstrate that they are prepared to work with children and youth in educational settings. This preparation results from the combination of successful completion of university coursework and field/internship experiences and the demonstration of important human characteristics and dispositions that all educators should possess.

Applicants to the IMCP/MCERT pathway are required to review the Foundational Competencies (FC) & Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) Introduction and submit an acknowledgement survey. A PDF copy of the completed acknowledgement survey must be uploaded to the TerpEngage Application.

https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_bHhjk8jmRtwDL8i

IMCP applicants should upload their Foundational Competencies completed during their undergraduate program in lieu of the acknowledgement survey.

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 mid to late 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 recommend that you periodically verify that the UMD Graduate School received your application materials. Once we receive a complete application to the MCERT Pathway, we will interview eligible candidates.

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 Pathway 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), M.Ed./Cert
Term of Entrance:	Summer I (MCERT/IMCP ONLY begins in the summer)
Program of Study:	Curriculum and Instruction (EDCI) College/School: College of Education
Area of Interest 1:	Maryland Master's Certification program (MCERT) or Integrated Masters Certification Program (Off-Campus/1yr) (IMCP)
Area of Interest 2:	Choose the content area you would like to teach. **(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) Preliminary Transcript Review (MCERT only, not required for IMCP applicants), 5) Introduction to Foundational Competencies (FC) & Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) acknowledgement survey form 6) Basic skills test scores (if required). Recommendation Letters should be submitted directly by the recommender.

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
> 7809 Regents Drive
> College Park, MD 20742
> Electronic transcripts should be sent to gradschool@umd.edu

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

Statement of Purpose

<mark>For Elementary Candidates ONLY.</mark> Submit a 1,000-2,000 word essay that addresses the following three prompts. Be sure to respond carefully to each and every prompt. Your response should include specific examples, and be honest and insightful appraisal of your teaching skills.

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

<mark>For Secondary and PK-12 Candidates</mark>. 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:

- Why do you want to become an educator? Describe what experiences helped you make this decision.

- In your experience, what does a good teacher know? What skills, strategies or actions do good teachers use? (examples may include but are not limited to: creates a positive learning environment, knows students, has a passion for the content area, engages students in learning, conveys a love of learning, believes all students can succeed, etc.)

- What does teaching a diverse population mean to you? (Diverse learners might include students who have different abilities or who are neurodiverse, students who are LGBTQIA, or students from various ethnic, cultural, religious, socioeconomic, or linguistic backgrounds. This list is not exhaustive.)

- What do you hope to learn from this program so you can become a great teacher?

<mark>For Chinese Education Candidates ONLY.</mark> 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.

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:

- o Show experience working with children or youth in the age group you are interested in teaching.

- o Show experience working in tutoring, coaching, or other instructional settings with children or youth.

- o 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.

Three Letters of Recommendation

Applicants must 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 complete the recommendation survey and upload the recommendation letter.

It is strongly recommended that applicants choose recommenders who can evaluate their teaching and learning abilities and are either in the field of education, a field closely related to the applicant's content area of interest, works with the target age group (kids and/or adolescents) of the applicant's content area of interest, and/or works with diverse populations.

At least one should be from a faculty member familiar with your academic work and ability to succeed in graduate study. In addition, the letters should address your character and your organizational skills. Letters from friends and family members are not appropriate.

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All graduate students who are in an approved program leading to initial teacher certification, or advanced certification, in professional preparation programs, are expected to demonstrate that they are prepared to work with children and youth in educational settings. This preparation results from the combination of successful completion of university coursework and field/internship

experiences and the demonstration of important human characteristics and dispositions that all educators should possess. Applicants to the MCERT pathway are required to review the Foundational Competencies (FC) & Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE) Introduction and submit an acknowledgement survey. A PDF copy of the completed acknowledgement survey must be uploaded to the TerpEngage Application.

https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_bHhjk8jmRtwDL8i

IMCP applicants should upload their Foundational Competencies completed during their undergraduate program in lieu of the acknowledgement survey.

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 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. (Institution Code 5814)

Passing scores of basic skills tests are:

Test	Test Code	MD Score
Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators (Version 2019) • 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 • Reading (sr - 85 minutes) and • Writing (sr & cr – 100 minutes) and • Mathematics (sr – 85 minutes)	5712 5722 5732	156 162 150
Praxis I: PPST/CPPST (Before September 1, 2014) • 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

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 (Institution Code: **5814**).

OPI Scores

The OPI applies only to candidates for the World Languages program. Advanced Low is required by July 1st.

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 correct Praxis II tests, see the content-specific test codes, titles, and passing scores <u>required by Maryland</u> below. The same information is available on the testing center ETS website at <u>www.ets.org/praxis</u>.

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. Subtests:
	  o Reading and Language Arts
	  o Mathematics
	  o Science
	  o Social Studies
	
	Teaching Reading: Elementary
		7811
		
		7812
		7813
		7814
		7815
		
		5205
			
			161
			150
			154
			161
			
			159

English	English Language, Arts Content, and Analysis	5039	168
TESOL	English to Speakers of Other Languages Teaching Reading: Elementary	5362 5205	163 159
French	World Languages: French	5174	162
German	World Languages: German	5183	163
Latin	Latin	5601	152
Mathematics	Mathematics: Content Knowledge	5165	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	5164	165
Middle School Science	Middle School: Science	5442	152

Program Costs

The amounts in the charts below reflect the tuition and fees of 2022-23 AY. If admitted, you will begin the MCERT pathway in June 2024, and the tuition and fee rates *may* be higher than the rates presented in the charts. The same tuition rate applies regardless of MD residency classification. Contact the MCERT Pathway Coordinator, mcert@umd.edu, with questions. In addition to the tuition and fees listed below, students should also consider the cost of books, transportation, parking, *health insurance*, and other living expenses.

Graduate Students are required to have health insurance. More information about requirement and associated costs can be found at https://gradschool.umd.edu/health-insurance

Please Note: In order to keep costs down, the campus has agreed to waive the on-campus fees for students enrolled in the MCERT/IMCP graduate degree pathway. It is important for you   to understand that this means you may not be able to use many of the student services that would normally be included with your student fees such as Athletics, Shuttle Bus, Student Union Services, Student Activities, Recreation Services, Performing Arts & Cultural Center, Health Center Fee, Student Facilities fee.

Elementary: 36 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	11 credits x $828/credit = $9,108	15 credits x $828/credit = $12,420	10 credits x $828/credit = $8,280	**$29,808**
Internship fee		$375	$375	$750
Fingerprinting	$60 (varied by county)			$60
LiveText		$139		$139
***Praxis II 7811**		$209		$209
***Praxis Reading Test (TRE, 5205)**		$156		$156
				Approx. $31,122

*Praxis fees are subject to change—please double check with ETS.org/praxis

Secondary & PreK-12: 36 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	12 credits x $828/credit = $9,936	12 credits x $828/credit = $9,936	12 credits x $828/credit = $9,936	**$29,808**
Internship fee		$375	$375	$750
Fingerprinting	$60 (varied by county)			$60
LiveText		$139		$139
***Praxis II /WPT *OPI**	$156 $170 (World Language)			$156 - $170
				Approx. $31,122

*Praxis fees are subject to change—please double check with ETS.org/praxis

Middle School: 38 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	12 credits x $828/credit = $9,936	14 credits x $828/credit = $11,592	12 credits x $828/credit = $9,936	**$31,464**
Internship fee		$375	$375	$750
Fingerprinting	$60 (varied by county)			$60
LiveText		$139		$139
***Praxis II /WPT *OPI**		$156		$156
				Approx. $32,569

*Praxis fees are subject to change—please double check with ETS.org/praxis

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TESOL: 39 Credits

Program Costs	Summer I & II	Fall	Spring	Total
Tuition	15 credits x $828/credit = $12,420	10 credits x $828/credit = $8,280	3 credits x $8281/credit = $2,484	11 credits x $828/credit = $9,108
Internship fee		$375	$375	$750
Fingerprinting	$60 (varied by county)			$60
LiveText		$139		$139
*Praxis II /WPT *OPI		$156		$156
				Approx. $33,397

*Praxis fees are subject to change—please double check with ETS.org/praxis

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. 301-314-9000

Scholarships and Financial Resources: MCERT students are eligible for scholarships! Best consideration for these scholarships is given to admitted MCERT students who submitted their graduate school application by the November 1st MCERT priority deadline.

AmeriCorps Alumni Scholarship: The College of Education offers a tuition scholarship of up to $4,000 for up to five AmeriCorps Alumni who have been admitted to the MCERT program. Details about this scholarship opportunity are available at:
https://education.umd.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships/americorps-scholarships

COE Scholarships: The College of Education offers $1,500 scholarship awards to students. Criteria, details, and applications are available online at:
https://education.umd.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships/general-coe-scholarship-application

COE Critical Shortage Area Scholarships: COE has $3000 scholarships for incoming MCERT candidates who are pursuing teaching in critical teacher shortage areas, or a $4000 scholarship for first generation students. An incoming MCERT candidate in a critical shortage area does not need

to apply for these scholarships and is automatically eligible for the award based on information provided on their application. Best consideration for these scholarships is given to admitted MCERT students who submitted their graduate school application by the November 1st MCERT priority deadline.

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
- 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.

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 full-time undergraduate students receive priority. Note: there are no facilities within the residence halls exclusively for graduate students or for spouses, partners, or family members of students. 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 located on university property. These properties are managed by a property management company, Southern Management Corporation. There are also off-campus options in nearby communities.   For more information, resources, and access to online tools, please visit the Off-Campus Housing (OCH) website at https://www.och.umd.edu.

Health Insurance

The UMD Graduate School requires that all full-time graduate students have health insurance-- MCERT students are full-time. Students will be automatically enrolled in a health insurance plan beginning in August of your program year and your student account will be charged at that time. Students who already have health insurance must request a waiver to be opted out of the automatic enrollment. More information can be found at: https://gradschool.umd.edu/health-insurance

Immunizations

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).

COVID-19 Vaccine Verification
Students must upload your vaccine documentation into the [Keep Terps Safe Portal](#). You must complete this step, otherwise a block will be placed on your registration.

Transportation and Campus Parking Permits

The Department of Transportation Services website provides information regarding parking policies around the campus. The Shuttle-UM and Alternative Transportation links on the Department of Transportation Services will give you all the information you need on getting to and from and around campus if you don't drive (shuttle schedules, maps, Metro connections etc.). http://www.transportation.umd.edu/

Quick Reference Information

➔ **Admissions and General MCERT Pathway Information:** Joy Jones, MCERT Pathway Coordinator. MCERT@umd.edu Or jonesj@umd.edu

➔ **MCERT Pathway Website:** https://education.umd.edu/academics/programs/masters/curriculum-and-instruction-master-education-med-certification-mcert

➔ **Graduate School Application:** https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/step-step-guide-applying

➔ **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

Looking forward to meeting you!