COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

TRANSFORMING EDUCATION FOR GOOD

M.Ed. In Curriculum & Instruction

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



Master's Certification Pathway (MCERT)

MCERT Pathway Website: go.umd.edu/mcert

ADMISSION
HANDBOOK 2026-2027

Revised 11/10/2026

Table of Contents

Table of Contents

Quick Info *1*

Words from MCERT Leadership Team *3*

What is MCERT? *4*

Key Features of MCERT *4*

1. Full-Time Commitment **4**

2. Program Advantages **4**

3. Intensive Mentored Internships **5**

4. Personalized and Supportive Learning **5**

5. School Partnerships **5**

6. Professional Accreditation **5**

7. Location Benefits **5**

Conceptual Framework *6*

Why Choose MCERT? *6*

Internship & Coursework Overview *7*

MCERT Internship Structure **7**

Placement Considerations **7**

Intern Responsibilities **7**

PreK-12 Dual Internship Placements **7**

Class Meetings **7**

Certification Areas *8*

Admissions: Pathway to MCERT *9*

1. Academic Preparation **9**

2. Relevant Experience with Children or Young Adults **9**

3. Professional Potential **9**

Who Can Apply? *10*

Content Course Prerequisites and Preliminary Transcript Review *10*

How to Request a Transcript Review *11*

Important Notes 11

MCERT Content Area Specializations *11*

Elementary Education (Grades 1-6) 11
Middle School Education (Grades 4-9) 11
PreK-12 Education (All Grades) 12
Secondary Education (Grades 7-12) 12
Application ***17***
Application Deadlines 17
Steps to Apply ***17***
1. Access the Application Portal 17
2. Activate Your Account 18
Application Review and Interviews ***20***
Statement of Purpose MCERT Prompts ***22***
Teacher Education Candidates must use the following 22
Statement of Purpose Prompts and NOT the general Graduate School prompts. 22
For Elementary Candidates ONLY 22
For Secondary, Middle School and PK-12 Candidates 22
For Chinese Education Candidates ONLY 22
Required Exams ***23***
Basic Skills Test Scores 23
English Proficiency Exam Requirements 24
Praxis II and/or Praxis TRE ***24***
Praxis II Test Codes & Required Scores 24
ACTFL OPI & WPT Scores 25
Program Costs ***27***
Financial Aid & Scholarships ***30***
Graduate Student Housing ***32***
Health Insurance Requirement ***32***
Immunizations ***32***
Transportation and Campus Parking Permits ***32***
Ready to Apply? ***33***
Call to Action 33
Next Steps for Applicants 33

Quick Info

The **Master's Certification Pathway (MCERT)** is an **intensive, one-year, full-time, graduate-level program** designed for aspiring educators seeking **both teacher certification and a Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree**.

Admissions and General MCERT Pathway Contact Information

- **Joy Jones**, MCERT Pathway Coordinator for Admissions & Student Services
  - **Email**: MCERT@umd.edu
  - **Phone**: 301-405-4448 (*voicemail only—calls will be returned within 48 business hours*)
- **MCERT Pathway Website**: go.umd.edu/mcert

Graduate School Application

- Visit the **Graduate School Application Guide**: Step-by-Step Guide to Applying
- Graduate School Application: https://terpengage.umd.edu/community/CustomLoginPage

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Application Deadlines

Applications must be submitted by the following dates:

- **November 3, 2026**: Priority deadline for all applicants
- **February 3, 2027**: Final deadline for Social Studies applicants only
- **March 12, 2027**: Final deadline for all other applications

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International Applicants & U.S. Citizens with International Transcripts

- **International Students**: The MCERT Pathway does not accept international students due to non-standard program dates and inability to comply with I-20 regulations.
- **U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents with International Transcripts**: Eligible to apply.

Federal Aid Deadline

The **2027–2028 UMD priority deadline** for the **Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA)** is **March 2027**.

- **Summer Aid**: Apply for the previous academic year for summer aid.

- **Example**: For summer 2027 aid, submit your FAFSA for **2026–2027**. Also, submit your FAFSA for **2027–2028**.

Resources

- **UMD Financial Aid Website**: UMD Financial Aid
- **FAFSA Application**: FAFSA

Return to TOC

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 University of Maryland-College Park (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

Return to TOC

What is MCERT?

The **Master's Certification Pathway (MCERT)** is an intensive, one-year graduate-level program designed for aspiring educators seeking both **teacher certification** and a **Master of Education (M.Ed.) degree**. This program integrates rigorous coursework with hands-on teaching experiences, preparing candidates to excel in diverse classrooms and educational settings.

Program Overview

MCERT offers certification pathways for **elementary**, **middle school**, **secondary**, and **PreK-12 teaching**, with specializations in:

- **Art**
- **Dance**
- **Elementary Education**
- **English**
- **Mathematics**
- **Middle School Math or Science**
- **Physical Education**
- **Secondary Sciences** (e.g., Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth/Space Science, Computer Science)
- **Social Studies** (e.g., History, Geography, Government, Psychology)
- **TESOL** (Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages)
- **World Languages** (e.g., Arabic, Chinese, French, Spanish, German, Russian, Latin)

Key Features of MCERT

1. Full-Time Commitment

- MCERT is a **full-time program** requiring complete dedication. Interns are engaged in school-based learning during weekdays and pedagogy courses in the evenings.
- **No part-time or distance learning options** are available.
- Interns cannot pursue employment or assistantships during the program year due to its rigorous demands.

2. Program Advantages

- **Graduate-Level Degree**:
  - Ranked **16th nationally** by U.S. News & World Report, the program is housed within the Department of Teaching and Learning, Policy and Leadership in the College of Education at the **University of Maryland**.
  - Includes a **year-long inquiry project** (instead of a thesis) and a **teaching portfolio** (in place of a comprehensive exam).
  - Interns present their research findings at the end of the program.
- **Fast**:
  - Complete **36–39 credits** in under one year while earning state teacher certification.

- **Affordable**:
    - All students pay a **modified graduate tuition**, regardless of residency status, making MCERT a cost-effective option.

3. Intensive Mentored Internships

- Interns apprentice in classrooms alongside **certified mentor teachers** throughout the internship year.
- These classrooms act as "learning laboratories" where interns apply concepts studied in their courses, including:
    - Instructional planning
    - Responsive teaching
    - Embracing diversity
    - Assessing student learning

- Interns also receive support from **university-based supervisors** and **subject-specific coordinators**.

4. Personalized and Supportive Learning

- Interns are organized into **content-area and grade-level cohort groups**, fostering collaboration and peer support.
- Cohorts enroll in the same classes and participate in **seminar courses** that complement their internships.

5. School Partnerships

- MCERT collaborates with **25 professional development school sites** across four Maryland school districts:
    - **Anne Arundel County**
    - **Howard County**
    - **Montgomery County**
    - **Prince George's County**

- University faculty and school staff work together to develop the curriculum, ensuring alignment with real-world teaching practices.

6. Professional Accreditation

- The program is fully accredited by the **Association for Advancing Quality in Educator Preparation (AAQEP)** and approved by the **Maryland State Department of Education**. Graduates meet all requirements for **Maryland State Certification** and are prepared to apply for licensure upon completion.

Return to TOC

7. Location Benefits

- The University of Maryland's proximity to **Washington, D.C.** provides access to diverse school districts, educational organizations, and research opportunities.
- Interns benefit from working in **renowned school systems** and engaging in meaningful, practical experiences.

Conceptual Framework

The **College of Education** ensures all graduates demonstrate four core proficiencies:

1. **Subject Matter Competency**:
    - Graduates demonstrate expertise in curriculum, pedagogy, and content knowledge.
2. **Understanding Learners and Contexts**:
    - Graduates recognize the social and cultural contexts of learners, with sensitivity to global perspectives.
2. **Evidence-Based Decision Making**:
    - Graduates use assessment and research to improve educational practices.
2. **Technology Integration**:
    - Graduates competently use technology to support student learning and develop data-driven solutions for school improvement.

These proficiencies prepare graduates to advance student learning, advocate for equity, and lead in educational settings.

Why Choose MCERT?

- **Earn a Master's Degree** while completing teacher certification requirements.
- **Learn from expert faculty** and collaborate with experienced educators in diverse school settings.
- **Graduate in just one year** with the skills and credentials to make a difference in classrooms.
- Benefit from **affordable tuition rates** and personalized mentorship throughout the program.
- Gain hands-on experience in **Professional Development Schools (PDS)**, where theory meets practice.
- Be part of a program that is **nationally ranked** and **professionally accredited**.

Return to TOC

Internship & Coursework Overview

MCERT Internship Structure

- **Duration:** Full-year, single-site internship.
- **Primary Placement Counties:** Anne Arundel (AACPS), Prince George's (PGCPS), Howard (HCPSS), Montgomery (MCPS).
- **Additional Placements:** Some interns may be placed in other counties based on the **specific discipline** and **opportunities** provided by school districts.

Placement Considerations

- **Geographical Preferences:** While your commuting distance and preferences are considered, **placement location cannot be guaranteed**.
- **Final Assignment Factors:** Availability of mentor teachers, intern's certification choice, and equity of commute for all cohort members.

Intern Responsibilities

- **Time Commitment:** Interns are expected to be at the school site for the **entire day** and actively participate in various school activities.
- **Apprentice Teaching Duties:**
    - Assigned for **no more than half of the school day** (varies by specialization).
    - **Secondary Certification Interns:**
        - **Fall Semester:** Apprentice teaching **three days per week**.
        - **Spring Semester:** Apprentice teaching **every day** under the supervision of a mentor teacher.
        - The mentor teacher remains the **teacher of record** throughout the year.

PreK-12 Dual Internship Placements

- **Certification Areas:** Art, Dance, Physical Education, TESOL, World Languages.
- **Field Experience:** Includes **dual placements** in both an **elementary** and a **secondary school**.

Class Meetings

- **Schedule:** Classes are held **two to three days a week** alongside the yearlong internship.
- **Locations:**
    - **Most Classes:** University of Maryland, College Park (UMD).
    - **Spring Seminar Course:** May meet at a **professional development center** or school in the partner counties.

Important Note:

Transportation Requirement: Students are strongly advised to have **access to a car** during the MCERT Pathway Program. While efforts are made to minimize commuting distances, **driving will be required** for participation.

Return to TOC

Certification Areas

Grade Level	Certification Areas
Elementary (Grades 1–6)	General Education
Middle School (Grades 4–9)	Mathematics, Science
Secondary (Grades 7–12)	Computer Science, English, Mathematics, Sciences (Agricultural and Extension Education, Biology, Chemistry, Earth/Space Science, Physics), Social Studies
PreK–12 (All Grades)	Art, Dance, Physical Education, TESOL, World Languages (Arabic, Chinese, French, German, Italian, Latin, Russian, Spanish)

Additional Notes:

- The program aligns with **Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE)** teacher certification requirements.
- Each applicant must apply with a **specific certification goal** in mind.
- MCERT coursework integrates closely with classroom work, and prior education courses may not substitute for MCERT courses

Return to TOC

Admissions: Pathway to MCERT

Admission to the **Master's Certification Pathway (MCERT)** is **selective**, with a faculty review committee evaluating applicants based on three key criteria: **academic preparation**, **relevant experience**, and **professional potential**. Below is a detailed breakdown of these criteria:

1. Academic Preparation

- **Undergraduate Excellence**:
  - Applicants must have completed a **bachelor's degree** in an appropriate academic discipline with a **minimum GPA of 3.0** on a 4.0 scale.
  - Candidates with GPAs between **2.8–2.99** or those who have successfully completed a **graduate degree** are encouraged to apply, as evaluations are holistic and based on a combination of:
    - Academic performance
    - Professional experiences
    - Commitment to teaching
- **Content Requirements**:
  - Applicants must have completed the **required academic content** for their intended certification area.
  - If coursework is still in progress at the time of application, candidates may still apply (see **Content Course Prerequisites** for details).

2. Relevant Experience with Children or Young Adults

- **Experience Matters**:
  - Applicants must demonstrate **experience working directly with children or adolescents** in the age group they plan to teach.
  - Examples of relevant activities include:
    - **Coaching**
    - **Mentoring**
    - **Tutoring**
    - **Volunteering**
    - **Substitute teaching**
- **Purpose**:
  - These experiences show that applicants have made an **informed commitment** to the teaching profession and are prepared for the challenges of working with young learners.

3. Professional Potential

MCERT seeks candidates who exhibit the following qualities:

- **A learner-centered educational philosophy**:
  - Demonstrating a commitment to student growth and development.
- **Self-knowledge, maturity, and sensitivity**:
  - Showing an ability to connect with diverse learners and colleagues.

- **Adaptability and resilience**:
  - Thriving in challenging and dynamic situations.
- **Strong communication skills**:
  - Excelling in both written and oral communication.

Who Can Apply?

There is no "typical" MCERT student. Applicants come from diverse backgrounds, including:

- **Recent graduates** from the University of Maryland or other institutions.
- **Career changers** transitioning into education.
- Individuals **returning to school** after years in the workforce.

While **formal teaching experience** is not required, candidates must have **competence in their subject matter** and meet state-required academic courses for their field. The program is structured to provide all professional requirements for certification.

Content Course Prerequisites and Preliminary Transcript Review

All applicants must already meet the required **content course criteria**. To ensure compliance, a **preliminary transcript review** by the College of Education advising office is **required** for the following applicants:

- **Elementary Education content area applicants.**
- **Secondary Math, Science, English, Computer Science Education** whose undergraduate major is **NOT in their content area of interest.**

  Example: A candidate interested in teaching high school biology should have an undergraduate degree in biology.
- **All Secondary Social Studies Applicants** regardless of undergraduate major
- **PreK-12 Art Education and World Languages applicants** whose undergraduate major is **NOT in their content area of interest.**
- **All PreK-12 Dance and Physical Education applicants**

Note: Applicants specializing in **TESOL** are **not required** to submit a preliminary transcript review but must have 2 modern language courses in addition to an undergraduate degree with the required minimum 3.0 GPA.

Return to TOC

How to Request a Transcript Review

You can request a transcript review online at:
https://go.umd.edu/PreliminaryReview

- **Important Notes**
  - Submit your request **2 to 4 weeks prior** to submitting your Graduate School application.
  - **Upload to your application** under the **Supplementary Application Section.**
  - **Applicants missing some content coursework** may still be considered but will need to complete the courses **prior to starting the program in June.**
  - If your review is **not ready in time** to meet the application deadline, you should **still submit your application.**
  - Once your completed review becomes available, send it to **mcert@umd.edu.**

MCERT Content Area Specializations

All applicants must possess a **Bachelor's degree from an accredited institution** AND complete the required **prerequisite coursework** specific to their desired teaching pathway.
These prerequisites align directly with the **Content Course Requirements** to ensure applicants meet the academic standards necessary for their chosen field of education.

Below are the detailed **content area prerequisite requirements and pathways** for **Elementary, Middle, Secondary, and PreK-12 Education**:

Elementary Education (Grades 1-6)

- **Credit Requirements**:
  - **Sciences**: Biological, physical, chemical, earth, environmental, or computer science (9 credits).
  - **Mathematics**: (9 credits).
  - **English Language & Literature**: English, American, World, Latin, Asian, African, etc. (6 credits).
  - **Social Studies**: (6 credits).
- **Additional Notes**:
  - Students can enroll at any **2-year or 4-year accredited college**, university, or online platform to complete prerequisite coursework.
  - A minimum grade of **"C"** is required in all prerequisite courses.

Middle School Education (Grades 4-9)

- **2 Pathways**:
  - **Mathematics Pathway**: Coursework includes Number and Operations, Geometry, Probability/Statistics, Algebra, Reasoning, Justification, and Proof.

- **Science Pathway**: Coursework includes Biology, Chemistry, Physics, Earth Science or Space Science, and a Math or Science Elective.

PreK-12 Education (All Grades)

MCERT Offers 4 pathway options for PreK-12 Education.

1. Art:

- **Bachelor's degree in Art** or any field with **24 relevant credits** (*portfolio required*).

2. Dance:

- **Bachelor of Arts in Dance** or related area with:
  - **DANCE practice coursework: 36 credits**
  - **Dance History and Theory coursework: 12 credits**

  Coursework includes: Developmental Movement/Somatics/Kinesiology, Movement Analysis, Dance History, Improvisation, Choreography/Composition, Modern Dance Technique, World Dance Forms, Ballet, Jazz, Tap, or other forms of Dance practice coursework

Contact: Dr. Crystal Davis at **cudavis@umd.edu** for questions.

3. Physical Education:

Coursework includes: Exercise Physiology, Sports Psychology, Biomechanics, Motor Learning, Motor Development, Cultural Diversity, 5 Sport/Activity Courses

4. World Languages:

Advanced coursework in: Grammar, Composition, Linguistics, Phonetics, Literature, Civilization

Contact: Dr. Alejandro Pérez Belda **anperez@umd.edu** for questions.

5. TESOL:

Requires:

- 2 Modern Language Courses
- **Bachelor's degree** with a minimum **3.0 GPA**

Secondary Education (Grades 7-12)

Below are the detailed content area prerequisite requirements for 7 Eligible Secondary Education.

Applicants seeking a Maryland State Teaching License for grades **7–12** must demonstrate content expertise through:

1. A **Bachelor's degree or higher** in the specific content area.
2. **OR** a degree in any field with the required number of content credits relevant to one of the following eligible content areas.

Computer Science

- **Eligibility**:
  - **M**ajor in **Computer Science** or a closely related field (e.g., Software Engineering).
  - **OR 30 credits** in Computer Science-related coursework.
- **Contact**: Dr. David Weintrop (weintrop@umd.edu).

English

- **Eligibility**:
  - Major in English, with a focus on literature
  - **OR** At least **36 credits** in English (*Applicants can use some communication/ language/ theater classes, but the focus should be on Literature)*
- **Course Breakdown**:
  - Literary Criticism: 3 credits
  - American and British Literature (evidence in both): 9 credits
  - World Literature: 3 credits
  - Advanced Writing (beyond freshman level): 3 credits
  - Shakespeare: 3 credits
  - English Language/Linguistics: 3 credits
  - English/Communication/Theater: 12 credits
  - Theme/Genre Electives: 6 credits
  - Speech and Rhetoric: 6 credits
  - Women/Minority Literature: 3 credits

Social Studies

- **Eligibility**:
  - Major in Social Studies-related disciplines such as History, Government, Geography, Economics, Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology, or International Relations.
  - 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.
- **Credit Requirements**: Minimum **30 credits**, including:
  - **3 History Courses**:
    - One U.S. History Course
    - One European History Course
    - One non-European History Course (e.g., 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 (e.g., Anthropology, Sociology, Psychology).

Mathematics

- **Eligibility**:
  - Major in **Mathematics** or **Applied Mathematics**.
  - Related fields such as **Statistics**, **Physics**, **Computer Science**, and **Engineering** may also be considered.
- **Recommended Coursework**:
  - Calculus I, II, and III
  - Multivariable Calculus
  - Differential Equations
  - Linear Algebra
  - Advanced Calculus (Analysis)
  - Statistics/Probability Theory
  - Abstract Algebra/Modern Algebra
  - Euclidean/Non-Euclidean Geometry, Discrete Mathematics, Mathematical Modeling, and Number Theory.

Agricultural and Extension Education

- **Eligibility**: Major in Agriculture
- **Core Requirements**:
  - Animal Science and Lab
  - Animal/Livestock Management (e.g., Dairy, Horse, Poultry)
  - Intro to Horticulture or Crop Science
  - Intro Soil Science
  - Fundamentals of Ag Mechanics
  - Food Science
  - Ag & Resource Economics or Farm Management
  - Youth & Career Development Course
  - Extension and Ag Literacy Course
  - Plant Pathology, Weed Science, Entomology, and Natural Resources requirements.
  - Chemistry & Lab and Biology I & Lab.
  - Power & Technical Systems and Plant Structure and Function.

Biology

- **Eligibility**: Major in Biological Sciences

- **Minimum Coursework**:
    - Principles of Biology I & II
    - Principles of Genetics
    - Biological Diversity Course
    - General Chemistry I & II
    - Organic Chemistry I & II
    - Calculus I & II
    - Physics I
- **Specialization Courses**:
    - Cell Biology & Genetics, Ecology & Evolution, General Biology, Microbiology, Physiology & Neurobiology.

Chemistry

- **Eligibility**: Major in Chemistry
- **Core Requirements**:
    - General and Analytical Chemistry
    - General and Inorganic Chemistry
    - Organic Chemistry I & II
    - Inorganic & Analytical Chemistry Lab
    - Physical Chemistry I & II
    - Physical Chemistry Laboratory I & II
    - Instrumental Methods of Analysis
- **Additional Coursework**:
    - Principles of Biology I
    - Principles of Physics I & II
    - Calculus I & II

Geology

- **Eligibility:** Major in Geology
- **Core Requirements**:
    - Physical Geology:
      GEOL 100/GEOL 110 Physical Geology/Physical Geology Lab
      -or-
      GEOL 120 Environmental Geology
    - GEOL 102 Historical Geology
    - GEOL 322 Mineralogy
    - GEOL 340 Geomorphology

- GEOL 341 Structural Geology
- GEOL 443 Petrology
- GEOL 490 Geology Field Camp
- GEOL 393 Technical Writing for Geoscientists
- GEOL 394 Research Problems in Geology

- **Additional Requirements**
  - **Astronomy:**
    ASTR 100 Introduction to Astronomy
    -or-
    ASTR 101 General Astronomy
  - **Chemistry:**
    CHEM 131 Chemistry I - Fundamentals of General Chemistry/ CHEM 132 General Chemistry I Lab
    -or-
    CHEM 135 General Chemistry for Engineers/ CHEM 136 General Chemistry Lab for Engineers
  - **Physics:**
    PHYS 161 General Physics: Mechanics and Particle Dynamics
    -or-
    PHYS 171 Introductory Physics: Mechanics and Relativity
  - **Mathematics:**
    MATH 140 Calculus I
    MATH 141 Calculus II
- **Advanced Geology Electives:**
  Choose three courses from:
  - GEOL 212 Planetary Geology (3)
  - GEOL 342 Stratigraphy and Sedimentation (4)
  - GEOL/AOSC 375 Introduction to the Blue Ocean (3)
  - GEOL 444 Low Temperature Geochemistry (4)
  - GEOL 445 High Temperature Geochemistry (4)
  - GEOL 451 Groundwater (3)

Physics

- **Eligibility**: Major in Physics
- **Core Requirements**:
  - **Introductory Physics**:
    - Mechanics and Relativity
    - Fields (Introduction to Electricity and Magnetism)

        - Oscillations and Waves
    - **Experimental Physics**:
        - Mechanics, Heat & Fields
        - Electricity and Magnetism - Analog Circuits
    - **Introduction to Scientific Programming**
- **Mathematics Requirements**:
    - Calculus I, II, and III
- **Advanced Physics Elective**:

  Choose one from **Quantum Physics**, **Introduction to Statistical Thermodynamics**, **Classical Mechanics**, or **Electricity and Magnetism II**.

Return to TOC

How This Connects to the MCERT Pathway

Each content area specialization ensures applicants are academically prepared for their **teaching internships** and **classroom responsibilities**. These requirements align with the rigorous expectations of the **MCERT program** and Maryland State certification standards, ensuring that educators are fully equipped to teach their subject area effectively.

Application

Application Deadlines

Applications must be submitted by the dates listed:

- **Priority Deadline: ***November 3, 2026
- **Final deadline**: February 3, 2027 - **Secondary Social Studies applicants ONLY**
- **Final deadline**: March 12, 2027 for all other applications

Applications received between November 3rd and March 12th will be considered on a rolling basis if space is still available in the program.

***Applicants must apply by November 3rd 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

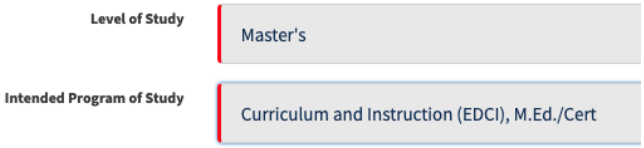
Return to TOC

Steps to Apply

To formally submit the University of Maryland Graduate School application for the **MCERT or IMCP M.Ed. Pathway**, follow the admission application instructions below.

1. Access the Application Portal

- Visit **Graduate School Admissions**.
- Select **"Apply Now"**. APPLY NOW
- Follow the **"Step by Step Guide to Applying"**
    - **Create your online account**
        - **Level of Study is Masters**
        - **Intended Program of Study : Curriculum and Instruction, M.Ed. Cert**



- Select "Create Account. CREATE ACCOUNT

2. Activate Your Account

- Check your email inbox (or spam/junk folder) for the Graduate School email notification.
    - In the email, click the link to **"Log into TerpEngage Portal"**.
    - Create your password and click **Submit**.

3. Start A New Application

4. Completing the Educational Intent Section

Fill out the following details:

- **Application Type**: Degree
- **Level of Study**: Masters
- **Intended Program of Study**: Curriculum & Instruction (EDCI), M.Ed./Cert
- **Area of Interest**:
    - Maryland Master's Certification Program (1yr) (M.Ed/Cert) **OR**
    - Integrated Maryland Master's Certification Program (1yr) (M.Ed/Cert)—**NOTE:** An IMCP student is a *current* UMD UG who has been preadmitted.
- **Area of Interest 2**: Choose your content area of interest

- **Term of Entrance**: Summer I 2027

5. Upload Previous Education

- Enter degree transcripts from previous institutions attended.
- Upload a copy of the **official transcript** (required).

6. Important Notes for International Students

- **MCERT & IMCP pathways do not admit international students** due to non-standard program dates and course schedules.
- Students with international transcripts who are **U.S. citizens or permanent residents** are eligible to apply.
  - Upload:
    - The original transcript (in the original language)
    - The diploma or certificate
    - An English translation of each document
  - All documents must be submitted for your application to be reviewed.
  - You may also need to submit English proficiency test scores that meet admission requirements:
    - TOEFL
    - IELTS
    - PTE

Important: ECE and WES evaluation reports are not accepted for international credentials.

7. Supplementary Application Uploads

Upload the following required documents under the **Supplemental Application** section:

1. **FC/MCEE Acknowledgement Survey**:
   - Required for all Teacher Education Applicants
   - Review the **Foundational Competencies (FC)** and **Model Code of Ethics for Educators (MCEE)**.
   - Complete the **Acknowledgement Survey** via **this link**.
   - Save the completed survey as a **PDF** and upload it.
2. **Preliminary Transcript Review:**

- Upload your **preliminary transcript review, if required**.

8. Upload Additional Required Documents

- **Resume** and **Statement of Purpose/Goal Statement**:
  - Respond to **MCERT prompts** instead of the general Graduate School prompts.
- **Letters of Recommendation**: Three letters are required.

9. Pay the Application Fee

- Submit the **non-refundable $90.00 (as of August 5, 20226)application fee**.

Final Application Checklist

- ✔ All transcripts
- ✔ Statement of purpose (Using Teacher Education specific prompts)
- ✔ Resume
- ✔ FC/MCEE acknowledgement survey
- ✔ Preliminary Transcript Review, if required
- ✔ Three letters of recommendation
- ✔ Test Scores if required
- ✔ $90 application fee

You will be notified if any materials are missing.

Questions? Contact: **MCERT@umd.edu** Return to TOC

Application Review and Interviews

MCERT applications are reviewed by the **content area teams**. Candidates who meet the **program qualifications**, including content area-specific course prerequisites, undergraduate GPA, and overall suitability for the program, will be invited for an **interview** (these are often done via zoom). These interviews are conducted by **faculty members** within the candidate's content area.

Interview Scheduling

- **Priority Deadline Interviews**:
  Interviews following the **November priority deadline** are typically scheduled in **late November to early December**. Occasionally, these interviews may extend into **January** during the UMD winter break. Every effort is made to provide a **departmental admission recommendation** to the Graduate School by **early to mid-January**.
- **Final Deadline Interviews**:
  Applicants who apply between the **priority deadline** and the **final deadline** will be interviewed on a **rolling basis**. They can expect to receive a notification within **two weeks** of their interview, but no later than **mid-April**.

Interview Preparation

Any necessary **interview preparation** will be provided along with the **interview invitation**.

Art Education Applicants - Special Requirements

Art Education applicants must **submit a portfolio** prior to their MCERT admission interview.

Statement of Purpose MCERT Prompts

Teacher Education Candidates must use the following
Statement of Purpose Prompts and NOT the general Graduate School prompts.

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. Your response should include specific examples, and be honest and insightful appraisal of your teaching skills.

- 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, Middle School 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:

- 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?

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.

Return to TOC

Required Exams

Basic Skills Test Scores

Teacher Candidates applying for certification in all academic content areas must demonstrate mastery of basic reading, writing, and math skills. *Teacher Education 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 take the Reading and Writing 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

English Proficiency Exam Requirements

UMD requires an English Proficiency Exam for applicants who do not hold a degree from a regionally accredited U.S. institution or from a recognized institution from an English-speaking country. **Acceptable exams** include the **TOEFL iBT, IELTS Academic, or PTE Academic**.

For **more information,** including required scores and a list of recognized English-speaking countries, please **visit https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/english-language-proficiency-requirements.**

Exam scores must be sent directly from the testing agency ETS to UMD (**Institution Code**: **5814)**.

Praxis II and/or Praxis TRE

Praxis II assessments are required after an applicant has been admitted and chooses to enroll. In addition to Praxis II, Elementary Ed and TESOL students are also required to pass **Praxis TRE** (Teaching Reading in Elementary Education).

MCERT and IMCP candidates are strongly encouraged to complete their required Praxis II Content Knowledge and/or TRE assessments prior to the start of the program in early June.

Exceptions:

- MCERT and IMCP students in **Art**, **TESOL**, and **Physical Education** are required to take these assessments **during the program**.
- These assessments must be completed **before the last day of the fall semester** of their program.

Important Note:

- Successful completion of all mandatory Praxis assessments is a requirement for graduation.

Praxis II Test Codes & Required Scores

In order to sign up for the correct 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	5236	150
Chemistry	Chemistry: Content Knowledge	5246	153
Chinese Mandarin	Chinese (Mandarin)	5665	165
Computer Science	Computer Science	5652	149

Earth/Space Science	Earth/Science: Content Knowledge	5572	152
Elementary Education	Elementary Education: Content Knowledge for Teaching. Subtests: ○ Reading and Language Arts ○ Mathematics ○ Science ○ 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	5266	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

ACTFL OPI & WPT Scores

World Languages students must complete either the OPI and Praxis II content knowledge OR the OPI and WPT exams **by July 1st. For questions, please contact the World Languages program coordinator at anperez@umd.edu**

Test Name	Subject Area	MSDE Passing Score	UMD Required Passing Score
OPI	Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish & Korean	Intermediate High	Advanced Low
	Chinese	Intermediate High	Intermediate High
OPIc Computer Delivered	Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Italian, Russian, Japanese, Portuguese, Spanish & Korean	Intermediate High	Advanced Low
WPT/iWPT	Arabic, French, German, Mandarin, Italian, Japanese, Portuguese, Russian, Spanish, Turkish & Korean	Intermediate High	Intermediate High

Return to TOC

Program Costs

The amounts in the charts below reflect the tuition and fees of the 2026-27 academic year. If admitted, you will begin the MCERT pathway in June 2027, 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: 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 Education – 36 Credits

Semester	Credits	Tuition ($841–875/credit)	Fees	Total
Summer I & II	12	$10,092	$208	$10,300
Fall	15	$13,125	$375	$13,500
Spring	9	$7,605	$375	$7,980
Total	**36**	**$30,822**	**$958**	**$31,780**

Additional Costs:

- **Fingerprinting:** $60
- **LiveText**: $139
- **Praxis II:** $209
- **Praxis Reading Test (TRE, 5205):** $156

Middle School Certification – 37 Credits

Semester	Credits	Tuition ($841–875/credit)	Fees	Total
Summer I & II	12	$10,092	$208	$10,300
Fall	12	$10,500	$375	$10,875
Spring	13	$11,375	$375	$11,750
Total	**37**	**$31,967**	**$958**	**$32,925**

Additional Costs:

- **Fingerprinting:** $60
- **LiveText:** $139

- **Praxis II:** $156

MCERT: Secondary & PreK-12 – 36 Credits

Semester	Credits	Tuition ($841–875/credit)	Fees	Total
Summer I & II	12	$10,092	$208	$10,300
Fall	12	$10,500	$375	$10,875
Spring	12	$10,500	$375	$10,875
Total	**30**	**$26,046**	**$958**	**$32,050**

Additional Costs:

- **Fingerprinting:** $60
- **LiveText:** $139
- **Praxis II/WPT/OPI:** $156-$170

IMCP: Secondary & PreK-12 – 30 Credits

Semester	Credits	Tuition ($841–875/credit)	Fees	Total
Summer I & II	6	$5,046	$208	$5,254
Fall	12	$10,500	$375	$10,875
Spring	12	$10,500	$375	$10,875
Total	**30**	**$26,046**	**$958**	**$27,004**

Additional Costs:

- **Fingerprinting:** $60
- **LiveText:** $139
- **Praxis II/WPT/OPI:** $156-$170

MCERT - TESOL: 39 Credits

Semester	Credits	Tuition ($841–875/credit)	Fees	Total
Summer I & II	15	$12,615	$208	$12,823
Fall	11	$9,625	$375	$10,000
Winter	3	$2,625	$54.25	$2,679.25
Spring	10	$8,750	$375	$9,125
Total	**39**	**$33,615**	**$1,012.25**	**$34,627.25**

Additional Costs:

- **Fingerprinting:** $60
- **LiveText:** $139
- **Praxis II:** $209
- **Praxis Reading Test (TRE, 5205):** $156

IMCP - TESOL: 30 Credits

Semester	Credits	Tuition ($841–875/credit)	Fees	Total
Summer I & II	9	$7,569	$208	$7,777
Fall	11	$9,625	$375	$10,000
Winter	None	None	None	None
Spring	10	$8,750	$375	$9,125
Total	**30**	**$25,944**	**$958**	**$26,902**

Additional Costs:

- **Fingerprinting:** $60
- **LiveText:** $139
- **Praxis II:** $209
- **Praxis Reading Test (TRE, 5205):** $156

***Additional Costs are subject to change**

Return to TOC

Financial Aid & Scholarships

Financial Aid: Federal Aid deadline
The 2026-2027 UMD priority deadline for the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) was March 1st. Please visit the UMD Financial Aid website for current deadlines and useful information: https://financialaid.umd.edu/

Note: For summer aid students will need to apply for the previous academic year. For example, to be considered for summer 2027 aid you will need to submit your FASFA for academic year 2026-2027. You will *also* need to submit your FASFA for academic year 2027-2028. For more information visit https://financialaid.umd.edu/summer-aid

To submit your FASFA visit: https://studentaid.gov/h/apply-for-aid/fafsa
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 3, 2026 MCERT priority deadline.**

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

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 Critical Shortage Area Scholarships: COE may have scholarships for incoming MCERT candidates who are pursuing teaching in critical teacher shortage areas. 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 **3, 2026 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 $8,000
- 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 the following link: https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/pages/college411/federalfinancialaid/teachgrant.aspx

The Office of Student Financial Assistance (OSFA) at the Maryland Higher Education Commission (MHEC) offers several financial aid, scholarship and grant options, including the **Maryland** Teaching Fellows of Maryland Scholarships**,** which is a scholarship that covers fall & spring tuition that may be awarded to Maryland state resident students who pledge to work in a Maryland public school where at least 50% of the students are eligible for free or reduced lunch. For information and eligibility requirements on the Teaching Fellows of Maryland Scholarship and other available options, please visit the MHEC OSFA webpage at https://mhec.maryland.gov/preparing/Pages/FinancialAid/descriptions.aspx.

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. For more details and eligibility requirements, please visit https://studentaid.gov/manage-loans/forgiveness-cancellation/teacher

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.

Grants: do not have to be prepaid. 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

Return to TOC

Graduate Student Housing

Information regarding University Affiliated Housing and Off-Campus Housing can be found at https://gradschool.umd.edu/students/graduate-student-housing

Health Insurance Requirement

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 https://health.umd.edu/immunizations .

*MCERT Students must submit their immunization records by the end of their first summer session in order to be enrolled for the fall semesters.
**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).

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/

Return to TOC

Ready to Apply?

Call to Action

Are you ready to take the next step in your teaching career? The **Master's Certification Pathway (MCERT)** at the University of Maryland offers the perfect combination of academic rigor, practical training, and professional mentorship to prepare you for success in the classroom.

Next Steps for Applicants

1. **Review Content Prerequisites** for your chosen subject area.
2. **Submit a Request for a Preliminary Transcript Review:** https://umdsurvey.umd.edu/jfe/form/SV_cNfTihVMbZ1Ld2e
3. **Prepare your Graduate School Application -** Visit https://gradschool.umd.edu/admissions/application-process/apply-now
4. **Complete Missing Coursework** at accredited institutions if needed.
5. **Prepare for Praxis II content** specific exams

Questions? Contact the MCERT program office directly at MCERT@umd.edu.

Start your journey toward becoming an outstanding educator today! We are looking forward to meeting you!

Return to TOC