

**MONTESSORI ADOLESCENT TEACHER PREPARATION COURSE  
SYLLABUS  
(12-15)  
MACTE Accredited\***

**SUMMARY DESCRIPTION:** This course provides participants with an interactive, experiential knowledge of all aspects of the Montessori Adolescent program. The course involves two summer sessions that include classroom lectures, demonstrations, participant involvement, observations, and an independent study. An intern practicum for one calendar school year is required and an examination process upon completion of the intern year.

The first summer session lays the groundwork for developing an understanding of the principles and philosophy of Montessori education that guide the practice. A history and overview of Montessori philosophy based on the 4 planes of development is presented as an orientation. The characteristics and needs of the adolescent outlined by Dr. Montessori is merged with current adolescent theory. The plan of work and study based on Dr. Montessori's framework for the Erdkinder concept is introduced along with best practices emerging from Montessori adolescent programming in both urban and land-based models, preparing teachers for the intern year. This session includes an overnight retreat experience.

During the intern year, teachers will implement the program of work and study, and the various frameworks for meeting the needs of the adolescent in a Montessori learning environment. They will also become involved with an independent study service project. Teachers return to the training center during the intern year for weekend seminars.

The second summer session extends the program of work and study for the adolescent and culminates with student presentations of their intern portfolios and an oral and written exam.

**CALENDAR**

First Summer Session	Four Weeks	June 8-July 2, 2020
Two Weekend Seminars		October, 2020 and February, 2021
Second Summer Session	Two Weeks	June, 2021

**ENTRANCE REQUIREMENTS**

Applicants must have at least a Bachelor's degree or equivalent, submit three letters of recommendation, and complete an application process which includes an essay response, a survey, and an interview with the program director. In addition, applicants must have secondary teaching credentials or 24 college credit hours in a field of study. Credit may also be given for previous course work in another MACTE accredited course.

## ADOLESCENT COURSE OFFERINGS

**Course Title:** History and Overview of Montessori Education (Contact Hours:10)

**Description:** This course is designed to provide the teacher with the history of Dr. Montessori's life and work. An overview of Montessori philosophy and the guiding principles beginning with the *four planes of development, the prepared environment, characteristics and needs of each plane, the role of the teacher, and a comparison of the first and third plane* is presented as an orientation to Montessori education.

**(Course Title:** Overview of the second plane of development and cosmic education.  
(Contact Hours: 20)

**Description:** In order for the teacher to become acquainted with the experience the adolescent has had previous to reaching adolescence, this course is presented to give an understanding of the developmental needs and characteristics of the earlier plane of development and the cosmic curriculum that defines the work of that age. In this way, the adolescent practitioner can understand Montessori adolescent education as a continuation of the *first* and *second* plane, with the adolescent experience characterized by work specific to its age. Included is an observation of a 6-9 and 9-12 classroom.

**Course Title:** Characteristics and Needs of the Adolescent. (Contact Hours:15)

**Description:** The nature of the adolescent forms the foundation of our work. This course will familiarize the teacher with physical, mental, psychosocial, and spiritual needs and characteristics of the adolescent that prescribe the program of work and study and learning environment. Characteristics and needs as outlined by Dr. Montessori are merged with current adolescent theory.

**Course Title:** A History of Adolescence and the Developmental Implications for Secondary Education in America. (Contact Hours:15)

**Description:** This course provides a history of adolescence in America from pre-industrial to contemporary times, and the emerging secondary educational experience that spans this period in history. A comprehensive study of the developmental needs of the adolescent and the implications for optimal learning environments is presented.

**Course Title:** Community as Central to the Montessori Adolescent Learning Environment. (Contact Hours: 90)

**Description:** This course provides the adolescent practitioner with an understanding of the significance community building plays in the learning environment. Teachers will engage in trust-building team initiatives, planning and implementing a 3-day, 2 night off-campus retreat adventure which includes a day hike, a solo experience, and the reality of interdependence practiced on a daily basis.

## Course Offerings cont'd

**Course Title:** The Plan of Work and Study: Key Experiences - Key Lessons  
(Contact Hours: 120)

**Description:** With Dr. Montessori's outline for the plan of work and study as our guide, and the frameworks that have grown out of the best practiced programming in the various Montessori models at the adolescent level, teachers will be presented an interdisciplinary approach to the various studies of language arts, mathematics, science, history, health, practical life, fine arts, physical education, as well as methods and resource materials. Teachers will be guided to develop frameworks that integrate the various subject areas and review the interdisciplinary approach in order to implement and work with a plan that is relevant to their individual student population and learning environment during the intern phase.

**Course Title:** The Prepared Environment for the Adolescent: Design, Organization, and Frameworks for Community Involvement. (Contact Hours:48)

**Description:** This course presents and integrates Dr. Montessori's vision for the adolescent, the Erdkinder concept, with all Montessori environments at the adolescent level from urban to land base. The teachers will observe area Montessori adolescent environments for reference. The teachers will review the various elements of curriculum design, daily organization, business enterprises, community building activities, record keeping, evaluation tools, teaching techniques, apprenticeships, service projects, adventure curriculum, the odyssey, and parent involvement. Teachers will design a model for use in their adolescent environment and develop a student and parent guidebook.

**Course Title:** The Role of the Montessori Adolescent Guide (Contact Hours: 20)

**Description:** Dr. Montessori ask the adult to take into their personal development, certain guiding principles if they plan to serve the development of the human personality. She speaks of a transformational process that the adult guide must be willing to go through. This course is designed to provide the adolescent practitioner with an understanding of the intrapersonal and interpersonal issues of the adolescent, and how to communicate and counsel their needs in this area. Teachers will also acquire some skills in yoga, deep relaxation, personal journey work, and sensitivity exercises.

**Course Title:** Independent Study (Contact Hours: 125)

**Description:** The teachers will identify a service project for their students with either an environmental focus, intergenerational focus, or humanitarian focus. The teacher will plan and implement the project during the intern year and present the project outcome during the second summer.

**Course Title:** Practicum (Internship) (Contact Hours: 1000)

**Description:** This experience involves a nine-month teaching internship in a Montessori adolescent environment under the supervision of a master teacher or field consultant.

## PRACTICUM SUPERVISOR

Student teachers will be visited a minimum of three times during the training by a field consultant. The trainee/or sponsor is responsible for fees incurred by the field supervision, and the cost of transportation, meals, and lodging.

### REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDENTIALS

The following must be completed by the teacher in order to receive credentials:

- Satisfactory work in all academic course components with required attendance
- Satisfactory evaluations of internship in approved site
- Written assessment
- Performance assessment
- Portfolio assessment
- Independent Study
- All financial obligations met

Teachers are responsible for all supplies and reading materials required to complete the course and for building their professional teaching albums.

#### Total Course Contact Hours

History and Over view of Montessori Education	10 hours
Overview of the Second Plane	20 hours
Characteristics and Needs of the Adolescent	15 hours
History and Developmental Implications for Secondary Edu.	15 hours
Community as Central	90 hours
Key Experiences and Key Lessons	120 hours
Design, Organization, Framework	48 hours
Role of the Montessori Adolescent Guide	20 hours
Independent Study	125 hours
Practicum (Internship)	<u>1000</u> hours
<b>Total Contact Hours:</b>	<b>1463</b>

## READING LIST

***To Educate the Human Potential***

by Dr. Maria Montessori

***From Childhood to Adolescence***

by Dr. Maria Montessori

***Maria Montessori: A Biography***

by Rita Kramer

***The Secret of Childhood***

by Maria Montessori

***Montessori Today***

by Paula Polk Lillard

***The Science Behind the Genius***

By Angeline Stoll Lillard, Ph.D.

***The Universe Story***

by Brian Swimme

***The Hidden Heart of the Cosmos***

by Brian Swimme

***Nurturing the Spirit***

by Aline Wolfe

***Ceremonial Times***

by John Hanson Mitchell

***California Blues***

by David Klass

***The Great Works***

by Thomas Berry

## **MONTESSORI ADOLESCENT TEACHER PREPARATION**

The Academic Course of Study is given over two summers and two seminar weekends during the school year.

- **History and Overview of Montessori Education**
- **Elementary Overview**
- **Characteristics and Needs of the Adolescent**
- **A History of Adolescence and Secondary Education in America**
- **Community as Central**
- **The Plan of Work and Study for the Adolescent**
- **The Prepared Environment for the Adolescent: Designs, Organization and Frameworks**
- **The Role of the Montessori Adolescent Guide**

**Practicum Phase during the School Year**

- **Independent Study**
- **Nine month Internship with a Master Teacher**