~ ELEMENTARY COURSES ~

**Introduction**

Our Elementary level courses provide a comprehensive preparation for teachers who wish to work in Montessori elementary multi-age classrooms. Montessori education is based on the natural interests and needs of children at each stage of their development. During the elementary years, children develop a thirst for knowledge and can imagine things outside their immediate personal experience. They want to explore the world beyond the home and school, and they seek involvement and a sense of belonging in peer groups.

The elementary curriculum provides children with a framework for studying nature and the universe, and supports the continued development of concepts, skills and personal growth in all areas.

Classes cover Montessori philosophy and child development, classroom leadership, curriculum, and instructional strategies. The program includes lectures, demonstrations, discussions, and practice sessions.

Students prepare detailed manuals of lesson plans in each curriculum area, practice giving lessons using specific learning materials, and design and make their own materials for classroom use. Instructors are supportive and bring a diversity of experience and expertise to their classes. This is an intensive and highly rewarding experience.

**Elementary I Phase (6-9 year olds)**

After students complete the Elementary I phase, they become eligible for the American Montessori Society Elementary I credential.

**Elementary II Phase (9-12 year olds)**

The Elementary II continuation segment focuses on advanced content for the older children. Students who complete both phases are eligible for the American Montessori Society Elementary I-II credential.

The Elementary II phase is open to teachers who already hold an Elementary I credential from another AMS recognized program.

**Student Teaching Practicum (9 months)**

The practicum is a key component of the student’s preparation to be a teacher. Generally, the student is paid a stipend as an assistant to the classroom teacher, or in some cases, a salary as a lead teacher. A practicum in an Elementary I classroom is recommended, but EI-II students may request practicum placement in an upper elementary classroom. **If a practicum is completed in an upper elementary classroom, the student must take the EII course in order to receive certification.**

**Practicum Arrangements**

MECR provides assistance in finding a practicum position. Final arrangements are the responsibility of the student and the participating site (school). The student teaching practicum site must be approved by MECR. American Montessori Society affiliate schools are preferred.

Under special circumstances, the student may be responsible for the class and undertake a self-directed student teaching practicum. A self-directed student teaching practicum is not recommended except in unusual situations and must be approved by the MECR Director.

A MECR field consultant maintains monthly contact with the student teacher, including at least three on-site visits to observe the student working in the classroom. At least 3 visits and 2 consultations are required for self-directed practicum students and there is an additional fee of $800.

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**CALENDAR 2019-2020**

**OVERVIEW COURSE**

Monday June 3 - Friday June 7, 2019 (5 days)

Required for students who do not hold a Montessori EC Credential. Total hours: 45

**ELEMENTARY I**

The EI phase may be completed in 13 months starting June 10, 2019. Total academic hours: 376

**Summer Session** (8 weeks)

Monday June 10 - Thursday August 1, 2019

(Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)

**November Seminar** (3 days)

Friday November 15 - Sunday November 17, 2019

**February Seminar** (4 days)

Friday February 14 - Monday February 17, 2020

**June Seminar** (7 days)

Monday June 8 - Tuesday June 16, 2020

**Student Teaching Practicum**

September 2019 to June 2020

6 hours per day, 5 days a week, for a 9-month school year (1080 hours)

**ELEMENTARY II**

The EII academic phase of the EI-II course may be completed in 6 weeks, starting Thursday June 20, 2019. Total academic hours: 225

**Summer Session 2019** (6 weeks)

Thursday June 20 - Thursday August 1, 2019

(Monday - Friday: 8:00 a.m. to 4:30 p.m.)
AMS AFFILIATION
Students who successfully complete the MECR Elementary course and hold a BA/BS degree are recommended for the American Montessori Society Elementary I (6-9) or the Elementary I-II (6-12) credential.

American Montessori Society (AMS)
116 East 16th Street
New York, NY 10003-2163
Tel (212) 358-1250  Fax (212) 358-1256
www.amshq.org

ACCREDITATION
MECR is accredited by Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education.

MACTE
420 Park Street
Charlottesville, VA 22902
Tel: 434-202-7793  Fax: 888-525-8838
www.macte.org

MECR FACILITIES
In 2002 MECR moved into an 8,500 square foot air-conditioned building at 4745 Walnut Street, a quiet street close to central Boulder, with administrative offices, classrooms for four course levels, and a student lounge and library. Refrigerators and microwaves are available for student use. Students have access to Wi-Fi. It is a short walk to the Boulder Creek path for picnic lunches and bicycle access. Some Elementary II sessions may be held at off-site locations.

DIRECTIONS
From 30th St.: Go E. on Walnut St. and under 47th St. bridge. MECR is on the left.
From Foothills Pkwy (47th St./Rte. 157):
Go W. on Arapahoe, N. on 38th St., E. on Walnut St.

PARKING
Park on the west side of the MECR building, or on the street. There is a bicycle rack in front of the building. Cyclists should bring a bicycle lock.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES
The number of Montessori schools continues to grow throughout the United States in both the public and private sectors. As a result, there is a demand among Montessori schools for professional, competent teachers who have earned a Montessori Elementary Credential from a high-quality training course. Some schools, especially public Montessori schools, prefer or require a state teacher license in addition to a Montessori credential. License requirements vary from state-to-state. Some states have alternative licensing processes. Contact your state Department of Education for more information.

The MECR office serves as an informal clearinghouse for job opportunities throughout the year. Current listings are displayed on our website. In addition, the American Montessori Society maintains a computerized placement service and publishes regular salary surveys.

MECR does not offer a formal placement assistance program and cannot guarantee employment, occupational advancement or a specific salary.

PROFESSIONAL DEVELOPMENT
Teachers who hold AMS credentials issued after July 1, 2013 are required to document 50 contact hours of professional development every 5 years to maintain active status of the AMS teaching credential. There are many opportunities for professional development after graduation, including AMS national conferences and on-line webinars, regional conferences, MECR workshops, and college classes.

MASTERS DEGREE
We partner with Endicott College. You can simultaneously receive your M.Ed. in Montessori Integrative Learning as you take the MECR course. For information please refer to the following link http://ties-edu.org and download the Endicott-MECR Flyer. A number of Universities offer transfer credit towards a Masters degree program for a completed Montessori Credential.

AUDIT PRIVILEGES FOR GRADUATES
Teachers who have graduated from a MECR course are invited to review coursework by returning to audit classes at the same course level. Call to check space availability. There is no fee and these audits do not count toward professional development requirements.
TUITION AND FEES  2019-2020

Application Fee: $250  ($150 for applications received before May 1st)
Registration Fee: $500 - Due 15 days after acceptance. Applied to the full tuition.
Elementary I Phase: $9,200 - Academic Phase only: $5,500
Elementary II Extension: $6,400
*Self-Directed Practicum Fee $800 - Includes at least two additional Field Consultant visits
Overview Course: $700 - Due June 1

*Required for Elementary I students who do not hold an Early Childhood credential from an AMS, AMI, or other MACTE accredited institution. The Overview Course starts June 3, 2019.

Elementary I Course (Start Date: June 10, 2019)

Plan A: Standard Payment Plan
$500 registration fee, due 15 days after acceptance
$5,000 due June 1, 2019 = $5,500 total for academic phase
$3,700 student teaching practicum fee, due August 1, 2019
$9,200 Total

Plan B: Deferred Payment Plan (includes $150 additional charge)
$500 registration fee, due 15 days after acceptance
$3,650 due June 1, 2019
$2,600 due August 1, 2019
$2,600 due January 15, 2020
$9,350 Total

Plan C: Monthly Payment Plan (includes $200 additional charge)
$500 registration fee, due 15 days after acceptance
$3,800 due June 1, 2019
$5,100 $510 due by first of each month, July 2019 through April 2020 (10 payments)
$9,400 Total

Plan D: For students receiving Title IV Federal Student Aid
$500 registration fee, due 15 days after acceptance
$4,350 due July 2019 on initial Federal fund disbursement
$4,350 due December 2019 on second Federal fund disbursement
$9,200 Total

Elementary II Course (Start Date: June 20, 2019)

Plan A: Tuition paid in full by June 15, 2019
$500 registration fee, due 15 days after acceptance
$5,900 due June 15, 2019
$6,400 Total

Plan B: Deferred Payment Plan (includes $100 additional charge)
$500 registration fee, due 15 days after acceptance
$3,000 due June 15, 2019
$3,000 due August 1, 2019
$6,500 Total

**Note: Title IV Federal Student Aid is not available for this continuation course

Student Teaching Practicum Expenses: MECR pays the consultant honorarium and local travel expenses for three visits by a qualified Field Consultant to the student’s teaching practicum site. Students at schools more than 100 miles from Boulder may expect additional expenses for consultant travel and accommodations, unless a local consultant is available. MECR will pay the first $200 of these expenses for each visit (total $600 for 3 visits). The student (or sponsoring school) is responsible for consultant travel and accommodation expenses above this amount. *Self-directed practicum students receive two additional Field Consultant consultations and there is an added fee of $800.

Books: Students should budget a minimum of $300 to purchase required texts. A book list is provided in the Course Handbook, which is provided at the interview.

Albums and Materials-Making: Plan for expenses of at least $1,000 for making materials and albums in the summer and through the year. Students will need access to a computer and printer for homework, and should bring writing supplies to class, as well as colored pencils, geometry compass, ruler, pencil-sharpener, and a camera.
FURTHER FINANCIAL INFORMATION

Housing and Travel
Housing and travel arrangements are the responsibility of the student. Contact information for apartments and rooms for rent is available for accepted students on our website. We recommend students visit accommodations or obtain references before signing a contract.

Delinquent Accounts
Students whose accounts become delinquent by 30 days will not be permitted to participate further in the course (including seminars, field consultant visits, practicum, assessments). Accounts must be fully paid in order for students to be recommended for certification.

Cancellation/Termination Policy and Refunds
MECR reserves the right to cancel courses due to insufficient enrollment up to 6 weeks before classes begin. In case of cancellation, or in the unlikely event that MECR discontinues a course in progress, students enrolled in the course will receive a full refund of tuition. Refunds will be made within 30 days of the official date of cancellation or termination of a course, which is the date when the decision is made by the MECR Board. In the unlikely event that MECR ceases operation, there are no refunds.

Postponement of Starting Date
Postponement of a starting date, whether at the request of the school or the student, requires a written agreement signed by the student and MECR. The agreement must set forth whether the postponement is for the convenience of MECR or the student, and a deadline for the new start date, beyond which the start date will not be postponed. If the course is not commenced, or the student fails to attend by the new start date set forth in the agreement, the student will be entitled to an appropriate refund of prepaid tuition and fees within 30 days of the deadline of the new start date set forth in the agreement, determined in accordance with MECR refund policy and all applicable laws and rules concerning the Colorado Private Occupational Education Act of 1981.

Withdrawals and Refunds
All payments are refunded if an applicant is not accepted, with the exception of the Application Fee. Any student wishing to withdraw at any point during the course must submit his or her reasons in writing to the Director. Refunds will be determined by the date that notice is received. A student has the right to cancel an Enrollment and Tuition Agreement for 3 days after submitting it. If a student withdraws

Before the first week of classes:
All fees will be refunded except for a $150 processing fee.

After classes begin, academic phase tuition will be refunded with deductions as follows:
  10% within Week One
  25% within Weeks Two and Three
  50% within Week Four
  75% within Weeks Five and Six
  There will be no refunds after the sixth week

Student teaching practicum phase refunds will be made with deductions as follows:
  10% before September 15
  25% between September 15 and November 1
  50% between November 1 and January 15
  75% between January 15 and March 15
  After March 15 no refunds will be made.

Refunds will be provided within 30 days of receipt of written notice of withdrawal. This refund schedule is based on instructional hours.
Most students receive stipends from their school during the student teaching practicum phase. The following resources are also available.

**Federal Student Financial Aid Programs**

Students who are enrolled or accepted for enrollment as candidates for certification in a MECR Infant and Toddler, Early Childhood or Elementary I Course, and are U.S. citizens or eligible non-citizens, and have financial need, may qualify for one of the following programs. (Please note: The Elementary II continuation course component does not meet eligibility requirements for Title IV Aid):

- **Federal Pell Grants**  
  Available only to undergraduates. Do not have to be repaid.

- **Federal Direct Loans**  
  Available to both college graduates and undergraduates.
  Loans must be repaid starting 6 months after completion of the course. Unsubsidized loans accrue interest beginning immediately after receiving the loan. Subsidized loans do not accrue interest until repayment begins. Subsidized loans do not require financial need.

- **Federal Direct PLUS Loans**  
  Available to eligible parents of students. Must be repaid with interest, starting within 60 days after the final loan disbursement. Yearly limit is equal to the cost of attendance minus any financial aid received.

**Free Application for Federal Student Financial Aid (FAFSA)**

Complete a FAFSA at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov)

The MECR Federal School Code is 033063 and can be found under our legal name: Rocky Mountain Montessori Teacher Training Program, DBA MECR

[www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov) is a U.S. Department of Education website. Here you will be able to fill out a Master Promissory Note, Entrance and Exit Counseling and find a wealth of information about Student Financial Aid. Telephone assistance is available at 1-800-433-3243 or through the MECR office at 303-494-3002

**Application Deadline:** Students are urged to apply as soon as possible.

For students who seek reimbursement through financial aid for fees already paid, the application must be at the school by the student’s last day of enrollment in the academic year in which the course is completed.

**American Montessori Society – Teacher Education Scholarship Fund**

A limited number of grants are awarded annually to selected applicants who have been accepted for enrollment in an AMS affiliated teacher education course. Application requires a personal statement, three letters of recommendation, a financial statement with a copy of the most recent income tax return, and verification of acceptance by the Director of the teacher education program.

**Application Deadline:** May 1st of the calendar year of initial enrollment. The complete MECR application must be received at the MECR office by March 31st to allow time for processing.

**Application forms:** Available on the AMS website at [www.amshq.org](http://www.amshq.org)

**Veterans:** Veterans, their spouses and dependents may be eligible for educational benefits. Call the Veterans Administration Regional Office at 1-800-827-1000 for information.

**Disbursement**

1. **Federal Funds:** Funds are deposited in the MECR federal account and credited to the student’s tuition account in two equal payments in mid-July and late-December. MECR reserves the right to apply funds to tuition and fees first. Remaining funds are disbursed by MECR in two equal semi-annual payments. The student must maintain satisfactory progress in order to receive continued funding. The maximum time for completion is 1.5 times the published course length. For Direct loans, a small percentage is taken out of the loan amount by the bank. On-line Entrance Counseling is required before disbursement and can be completed at [www.studentloans.gov](http://www.studentloans.gov)

2. **AMS Scholarship:** This funding is paid directly to MECR and credited to the student’s tuition account. If the student withdraws before completing their course, the unused portion of the tuition must be returned to the AMS Scholarship Fund.
ADMISSIONS AND ENROLLMENT

Prerequisites
A BA or BS degree is required to be eligible for an AMS Elementary teaching credential.

Attendance at the one week Overview Course is required for applicants who do not hold a Montessori Early Childhood credential from a MACTE accredited institution.

*We urge you to observe a Montessori class in session, and to read some books by or about Maria Montessori before completing your application. Recommended books by Dr. Montessori include The Secret of Childhood, The Discovery of the Child, and The Absorbent Mind.*

Application Packet
The following materials must be submitted to the MECR Office:
- Completed application form
- Current resume
- Personal Statement - Please respond to the following questions in one or two pages:
  a. What do you know about the Montessori approach to education?
  b. Why are you seeking a Montessori teaching credential?
  c. What are the personal qualities and talents that you bring to the classroom?
- Application fee: Check for $250 payable to MECR ($150 before May 1st)
- Two official college transcripts, mailed directly to MECR from the college
- Three MECR reference forms, submitted electronically or mailed directly to MECR upon completion by each of the three references listed on the application
- Copy of Montessori teaching certificate (if applicable)

International Transcripts
Applicants who hold a degree from a foreign college that is not accredited by one of the six regional accrediting agencies within the United States, must submit an independent evaluation of their diploma to establish its equivalency to a U.S. degree. Contact: World Education Services: [www.wes.org](http://www.wes.org)

Application Deadlines
We invite students to apply as soon as the MECR website is updated for the coming course year. AMS Scholarship applicants must submit complete applications no later than March 31st.

The application fee after May 1st is $250 and late applicants risk lack of space availability.

Interview Requirement
Upon receipt of the complete application, we will review your file and contact you to make arrangements for a personal interview at the MECR office. Out of state applicants may request a telephone interview. Practicum arrangements will be discussed during the interview.

Acceptance and Enrollment
Accepted students receive an Enrollment Packet which includes a Course Handbook and an Enrollment and Tuition Agreement form. The Director makes the final decision on admissions. Enrollment is complete when the student returns the signed Agreement with the registration deposit.

Transfer Credit
MECR does not give credit for previous training, education or experience, unless that training is at the same course level at another AMS affiliated institution and fully documented by that institution.

Submit Application Materials Online:  To request further information:
[www.mecr.edu](http://www.mecr.edu)  Tel: 303-494-3002
E-mail: info@mecr.edu