

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION
REQUEST FOR COMMITTEE AND BOARD ACTION

COMMITTEE: Assessment and Accountability

NO.: AAC 07-29

COMMITTEE DATE: June 6, 2007

BOARD DATE: June 14, 2007

MOVED:

The Board of Higher Education hereby approves the Articles of Amendment of **College of St. Catherine** to offer at school-based sites in Massachusetts the **Montessori Elementary Credential Certificate, Montessori Early Childhood Credential Certificate, and Master of Arts in Education with an American Montessori Society (AMS) Montessori Teaching Credential.**

Authority: Massachusetts General Laws Chapter 69, Section 30 et seq.

Contact: Aundrea Kelley, Associate Vice Chancellor for Academic Policy

BOARD OF HIGHER EDUCATION

June 2007

College of St. Catherine

Montessori Elementary Credential Certificate Montessori Early Childhood Credential Certificate Master of Arts in Education with an American Montessori Society (AMS) Montessori Teaching Credential

INTENT

The College of St. Catherine, a private Catholic college incorporated under the laws of the state of Minnesota, has filed a foreign corporation certificate requesting authorization to offer at school-based sites in Massachusetts the Montessori Elementary Credential Certificate, Montessori Early Childhood Credential Certificate, and the Master of Arts in Education with an American Montessori Society (AMS) Montessori Teaching Credential.

INSTITUTIONAL OVERVIEW

The College of St. Catherine was founded in 1905 by the Sisters of St. Joseph of Carondelet. In 1936 the College became the first Catholic college in the United States to be awarded a Phi Beta Kappa chapter in recognition of its focus on academic rigor. In spring 1913 Bachelor of Arts degrees were conferred on the first two students to complete four years at the new institution. In 1986 St. Mary's Junior College in Minneapolis, Minnesota, merged with the College of St. Catherine's, which at that time was a four-year liberal arts college for women located in St. Paul. The St. Paul campus has continued as the site for a mostly traditional baccalaureate women's college offering liberal arts and sciences as well as professional programs in business, health care and human services. The Minneapolis campus is coeducational and offers primarily associate degree and certificate programs in health and human services. The College offers ten graduate professional programs, including the Master of Arts in Education, to both men and women.

The College's Center for Contemporary Montessori Programs, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs leading to Montessori certification, is affiliated at all levels with the American Montessori Society. The College of St. Catherine is institutionally accredited by the North Central Association of Colleges and Secondary Schools and is authorized by the Minnesota Higher Education Services Office to award the proposed degrees in Minnesota. The Massachusetts Board of Higher Education approved the College of St. Catherine to offer the Master of Arts in Education with the Montessori Teaching Credential program at the Alfred G. Zannetti School in Springfield, Massachusetts, in 1999. The current petition, prompted by the move of the former Zanetti School principal to the German Gerena Community School in Springfield, would allow the program at the Gerena School or at other school-based sites.

ACADEMIC AND RELATED MATTERS

Admissions. The undergraduate applicant must have earned at least 48 semester credits in college with at least a 2.5 GPA. (Some para-professionals [aides] will participate in the program, and they may not have a bachelor's degree. They would be completing only a credential program.) The graduate applicant must have earned at least a baccalaureate degree and possess at least a 2.5 GPA. Graduate applicants seeking the Master of Arts in Education

degree must have earned at least a 3.0 total GPA and must be accepted into the Master of Arts in Education program at the College by the Graduate Admission Committee of the College.

Enrollment. The College of St. Catherine currently enrolls 3,831 undergraduate students, 2,453 full time and 1,378 part time. The College also enrolls 1,414 graduate students, 763 full time and 652 part time. The College anticipates enrolling a cohort of 60 students. Some of those 60 will complete in two years, and some will complete in three+ years, based on which credential they are seeking (early childhood or elementary) and on whether they opt for the master's program, as well.

Curriculum (Attachment A)

Program participants will complete the requirements for either an early childhood or an elementary Montessori credential. Completing the requirements for the master's degree will be an option for participants. The Montessori credential program will span three summers and three academic years.

The proposed Master of Arts degree program is identical to the College's home campus 35-37 credit program. Montessori teaching is a holistic philosophy with applications relating to children, communities, families, curriculum, learning materials and environments. Teachers work with children individually and in small groups. The program is a combination of academic course work, curriculum development and professional practice. The College will award its Master of Arts in Education (MAED) degree in Montessori Education to those participants who successfully complete all requirements.

Faculty evaluate student assignments and major projects, including action research projects. Students must have at least a 90 percent attendance rate; and pass preliminary written exams during the internship year and final oral comprehensive exams. These exams focus on curriculum, philosophy, theory, classroom management and child development. The final comprehensive oral exams in Early Childhood include the following subject areas: Practical Life, Language, Sensorial, Math and Geography. The final comprehensive oral exams in Elementary Education include Arithmetic, Biology, Geography, History, Language and Geometry. Students must present randomly selected lessons, explain their rationale and sequence and make connections to the other subject areas. They must also respond to selected imaginary scenarios and case studies to show their understanding of classroom management and child development in the Montessori setting.

RESOURCES

Only present faculty of the College of St. Catherine Center for Contemporary Montessori Programs and Education will teach in the proposed degree program: four full-time and nine part-time. The School District will provide, at its expense, a Montessori Coordinator. The Montessori coordinator will oversee and set up Montessori materials, distribute textbooks, CDs and other learning materials, keep attendance, act as a liaison, maintain files, notify students of all textbook and material requirements, collect assignments, and supervise student practice. The Montessori Coordinator must be Montessori-trained and fully certified by AMS or equivalent.

All costs for tuition, books and materials will be underwritten by the Springfield Public Schools.

The School District will provide for the College's use in teaching the described courses at least two fully equipped, acceptable (in the judgment of the College) Montessori elementary

classrooms and two fully equipped Montessori preschool classrooms for teaching and practice. The Internship/Practicum school site and classrooms must satisfy all applicable College and AMS guidelines. The school district will also provide two lecture rooms for teaching. Adult seating and writing space must be provided for adult students. The School District will also provide office space and at least two computers with Internet access, telephone, fax and copy machine access, and lockable file cabinets and filing space.

The School District will provide, for the College's use in teaching the described courses, at least two full sets of Montessori materials in excellent condition for each level, for a total of four sets of materials. These materials are to be set up in the practice rooms. These materials are to be provided according to the Authorized List of Montessori Materials for the Montessori Teacher Education Program. The College will furnish this list. The School District will also equip all classrooms to be used for Internship/Practicum sites with a full range of Montessori material in good repair for the ages to be served. These materials must also conform to the Authorized List of Montessori Materials. A list will also be provided of required art supplies, chemicals and lab supplies, reference books, support materials, furniture, technology and general school supplies. The Internship/Practicum school site and classrooms must also satisfy all applicable College and AMS guidelines.

Students in the proposed program will have electronic access to the College of St. Catherine Library. They will be able to request interlibrary loan materials via the Library Web site with document delivery by mail. The Library's holdings include 260,443 book and journal volumes, 1,150 print and 1,316 electronic journal subscriptions, 132,075 microfiche titles and 13,433 audiovisual items. The Library spends \$13,000 annually for research material in the education field.

PROGRAM EVALUATION

The College of St. Catherine's Center for Contemporary Montessori Programs, which offers undergraduate and graduate programs leading to Montessori certification, is affiliated at all levels with the American Montessori Society and submitted its letter of Full Accreditation status from the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education for its Early Childhood and Elementary Montessori teacher education certification courses. This accreditation will carry over to the program offered in Massachusetts.

PUBLIC HEARING

The required public hearing was scheduled for June 5, 2007, at 10:30 a.m. in the Board of Higher Education's office.

STAFF ANALYSIS AND RECOMMENDATION

Recommendation is for approval of the College of St. Catherine request to offer at school-based sites in Massachusetts the Montessori Elementary Credential Certificate, Montessori Early Childhood Credential Certificate, and the Master of Arts in Education with an American Montessori Society (AMS) Montessori Teaching Credential.

ATTACHMENT A – Curriculum Outline

Montessori Elementary Credential and Montessori Early Childhood Credential Certificates with the Option of Master of Arts in Education

Graduate Program Curriculum Outline – Early Childhood

Major Required (Core) Courses (Total # of courses required = 0)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
N/A	Orientation	0
EDUC 414/614	Foundations and Theories of Montessori Education	3
EDUC 410/510	Early Childhood Practical Life	1
EDUC 415/515	Early Childhood Sensorial Education	1
EDUC 422/522	Early Childhood Music and Movement	1
EDUC 436/536	Early Childhood Mathematics	2
EDUC 437/537	Early Childhood Language Arts and Reading	2
N/A	Preparation of Classroom	0
EDUC 438/538	Early Childhood Social Studies	1
EDUC 426/526	Early Childhood Art	1
EDUC 427/527	Early Childhood Science	1
EDUC 462/562, 463/563, 464/564	Early Childhood Student Teaching Practicum I-II- III	6
EDUC 471/571	Early Childhood Projects I	1
EDUC 472/572	Early Childhood Projects II	1
EDUC 473/573	Early Childhood Projects III	1
EDUC 414/614	Foundations and Theories of Montessori Education	N/A
EDUC 437/537	Early Childhood Language Arts and Reading	N/A
N/A	Written Comprehensive Examination	0
N/A	Practice week for Orals	0
N/A	Comprehensive Oral Examinations	0
EDUC 599	Topics: Classroom Leadership	3
EDUC 665	Introduction to Action Research (Required for MAED only)	2
EDUC 670	Integration Seminar (Required for MAED only)	2
EDUC 890	Action Research Project (Required for MAED only)	2
	Subtotal # Core Credits Required	31
<i>Elective Course Choices (Total courses required = 0) (attach list of choices if needed)</i>		
[Course Number]	[Course Title]	[0]
	Subtotal # Elective Credits Required	

Graduate Program Curriculum Outline - Elementary

Major Required (Core) Courses (Total # of courses required = 0)		
Course Number	Course Title	Credit Hours
N/A	Orientation	0
EDUC 414/614	Foundations and Theories of Montessori Education	3
EDUC 544	Methods and Materials in Elementary Mathematics I	2
EDUC 554	Methods and Materials in Elementary Language Arts and Reading I	2
EDUC 519	<i>Methods and Materials in Elementary Social Studies and Practical Life I</i>	2
N/A	Preparation of Classroom	0
EDUC 529	Methods and Materials in Music and Movement	1
EDUC 542	Methods and Materials in Elementary Art	1
EDUC 547	Methods and Materials in Elementary Biology I	1
EDUC 584	Elementary Seminars and Projects I	2
EDUC 586	Elementary Seminars and Projects I	2
EDUC 588	Elementary Seminars and Projects II	2
EDUC 619	Methods and Materials in Elementary Social Studies II	2
EDUC 644	Methods and Materials in Elementary Mathematics II	2
EDUC 654	Methods and Materials in Elementary Language Arts and Reading II	2
EDUC 647	Methods and Materials in Elementary Biology and Science II	1
EDUC 657	Elementary Student Teaching Practicum and Seminars I	2
EDUC 658	Elementary Student Teaching Practicum and Seminars II	2
EDUC 659	Elementary Student Teaching Practicum and Seminars III	2
N/A	Written Comprehensive Examination	0
N/A	Practice week for Orals	0
N/A	Comprehensive Oral Examinations	0
EDUC 665	Introduction to Action Research (Required for MAED only)	2
EDUC 670	Integration Seminar (Required for MAED only)	2
EDUC 890	Action Research Project (Required for MAED only)	2
	Subtotal # Core Credits Required	37
<i>Elective Course Choices (Total courses required = 0) (attach list of choices if needed)</i>		
[Course Number]	[Course Title]	[0]
	Subtotal # Elective Credits Required	