Montessori Frequently Asked Questions



Use this guide to help learn about how a Montessori certificate or credential can help you meet your licensing education requirements.

What Montessori certificates, credentials, and diplomas are approved alternatives for meeting my licensing education requirement?

The following are DCYF-approved alternative credentials for meeting the licensing education requirements for an early learning program:

- Montessori teaching credential issued by a MACTE accredited program
- Montessori teaching credential issued by AMI (American Montessori International)
- Montessori teaching credential issued by AMS (American Montessori Society)

These teaching credentials must be awarded for one of the following age groups:

- Infant and Toddler (Birth 3)
- Early Childhood (Ages 2.5 6)
- Montessori Elementary 1 (Ages 6 9)

What is MACTE?

MACTE, Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education, is the only accrediting agency recognized by the U.S. Department of Education able to award the Montessori Teacher Education Program approval. MACTE does not offer school accreditation.

All MACTE accredited Teacher Education programs are listed on MACTE's website at **www.macte.org**.

Where can I learn more about my education requirement?

To learn more about your education requirement based on your WAC role in MERIT:

- Review the General Staff Qualifications Chart at https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/ EPS_0039.pdf
- Use the Equivalent Options for Education chart to determine what options are available at https://dcyf. wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0037.pdf

What if I don't see my Montessori certificate, credential, or diploma listed as an equivalent?

If your Montessori certificate or credential is not listed as a DCYF-approved alternative credential and you believe that it should be, the awarding education institution can request a 'Program Review for Staff Qualifications' application by emailing merit@dcyf.wa.gov.



If I have a Montessori credential, do I need to complete Child Care Basics?

If your Montessori credential is recorded in MERIT, you are eligible to meet the Child Care Basics requirement through an approved alternative: ECE Education + DCYF Online Modules.

To complete this option:

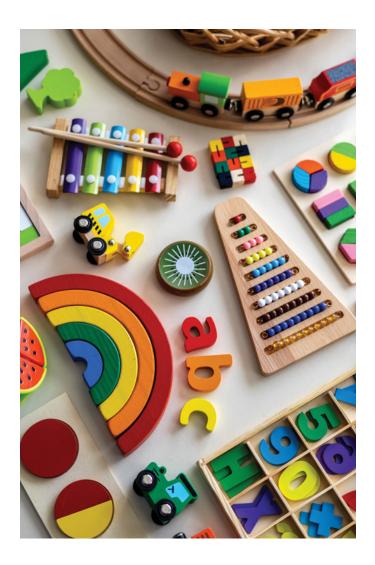
- Complete all five of the "Federal Health & Safety" modules on the DCYF Online Training Site at www.dcyftraining.com. This includes:
 - Abusive Head Trauma
 - Disaster & Emergency Preparedness
 - Families Experiencing Homelessness
 - Mandated Reporter Recognizing and Reporting Child Abuse
 - Medication Management
- Send an email to merit@dcyf.wa.gov to have your MERIT Professional Record updated.

For more approved methods to meet CCB, see our guide to Completing Child Care Basics at https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pubs/EPS_0035.pdf.

Can I receive in-service hours for my Montessori certificate?

To receive in-service hours for Montessori certificates and credentials follow the application instructions listed below for your certificate or credential type.

Certificate or Credential Type	How do I get in-service hours?	Submission Timeline
Montessori education earned through college coursework (MACTE, AMI, AMS)	 Complete the College Coursework section of an Education Application in MERIT. Submit a copy of the AMI, AMS, or MACTE unofficial transcript to education.verification@ centralia.edu 	 Only submit coursework completed within the past three years. Only three courses may be submitted per calendar year.
All other Montessori certificates not earned through college coursework	 Submit a Continuing Education Proposal application in MERIT. Submit a copy of the certificate of completion or credential to MERIT@dcyf.wa.gov 	Training must have been completed within the last 12 months.



My Montessori role is not listed as an early learning role. How do I know what my licensing staff qualifications are?

If your job title does not exactly match a role in WAC, consider what you do and select the WAC role in MERIT that best fits your responsibilities. The job role listed in MERIT is connected to your staff qualifications and must be as accurate as possible. Please work with your program director or site supervisor to finalize your selection.

The Role Determination Chart summary is available to assist you in determining your role and responsibilities. you can access it at https://dcyf.wa.gov/sites/default/files/pdf/PDRoleDeterminationChart.pdf

Additional questions?

Email: merit@dcyf.wa.gov Phone: 1 (866) 482-4325, option 5