

Creative Initiatives in Teacher Education (CITE) Program
**A University of Maryland College Park/
Montgomery County Public Schools Partnership**

What is the Creative Initiatives in Teacher Education (CITE)?

CITE is a partnership program between Montgomery County Public Schools and the University of Maryland College Park for support professionals who are permanent employees of MCPS who have an interest in a career in teaching. Completion of the Maryland State Department of Education approved 43-graduate credit program results in either a Masters in Education (M.Ed.) degree or Upper Division Certificate. Teacher education preparation in CITE provides for certification in elementary grades 1-6 with an emphasis on special education or English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL). The program includes evening coursework, a 2-hour a day classroom-based internship in an MCPS elementary school and a final teacher residency in an MCPS elementary classroom.

When does the CITE Program begin?

Coursework for the CITE Program begins every year in January with a pre-program orientation module to be conducted in December.

Where are CITE courses offered?

CITE courses are instructed at MCPS facilities, the Universities at Shady Grove campus, or through hybrid or online courses.

How many participants are accepted into the CITE Program?

The program can accommodate two cohorts of 25 interns each, every year.

What is the cost of the CITE Program?

The current cost of a three credit graduate course at the University of Maryland is \$2,151 or \$717/graduate credit. Other current fees required include those outlined below:

University of Maryland-

- a one-time \$75.00 application fee
- a one-time \$115.00 registration fee for the LiveText program
- a \$76.00 per semester technology fee.
- a one-time \$350.00 cost in the second year of the program for participation in the required University of Maryland EdTPA program. Scholarships are available for this expense.

Universities at Shady Grove-

- a \$10.00 facility fee per semester
- a \$20.80 auxiliary services fee per semester
- a \$99.00 parking fee per semester.

Is there financial assistance for the cost of this program?

MCPS provides support staff tuition reimbursement. Information can be found at <http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/about/tuition.aspx>. The University of Maryland offers financial aid packages and scholarships. Information on is available at the College of Education website at <https://education.umd.edu/admissions/financial-aid-scholarships>

Can I work while participating in the CITE Program?

An intern in the CITE program maintains permanent employment as a school-based support professional at the elementary level in a Montgomery County Public School. Allowances for program and employment demands should be considered if interns have or need additional outside means of employment.

Can I work at a school of my choosing in MCPS?

This is mostly the case.

Will I be offered a job by MCPS upon completion of the Program?

Graduates from CITE who complete the program successfully are eligible for employment as a teacher with MCPS. A CITE intern hired by MCPS must commit to teaching in the system for at least 3 years in order to take advantage of MCPS tuition reimbursement for the program.

What are the academic requirements for entering the CITE Program?

Candidates must have acquired an accredited bachelor's degree. Formal teaching background is not required, however, it is expected that interns will have experiences working directly with children. Preferred candidates will have a broad liberal arts education that provides background knowledge for the elementary school curriculum. Transcripts are examined for courses in the following areas: science (physical, biological, and earth/space); English (composition and literature); history and a social science (soc, psych, anthro, gov or econ); the arts (music, visual arts, dance, or theater); and health/wellness or physical education. Additional candidate knowledge of and experiences with a second language, diverse populations, and inclusion with special education will also be appraised.

Do I need to take any courses or exams prior to entering into the CITE Program?

Maryland State Department of Education prerequisites are required **prior** to beginning CITE:

- Completion of college credit math courses that include 1) Number and Operations, 2) Geometry/Measurement, and 3) Statistics/Probability. Courses are available through UMCP (Math 212, 213, 214) or at Montgomery College (Math 130, 131, 132- please contact Debra Poesse Debra.Poesse@montgomerycollege.edu). A Grade of "C" or better in college Calculus or a score of 177 on the Praxis I Math exam can be used to waive the Numbers and Operations course requirement. Successful completion of an undergraduate probability or statistics class (in math, psychology, or sociology) can be applied to waive the Statistics/Probability course requirement. Details about applicable math courses can be obtained through the UMD Graduate School website <https://www.gradschool.umd.edu/>
- Completion of the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators assessment with a passing score in reading, math and writing. *Appropriate SAT, ACT, or GRE scores may be supplemented for this assessment.* More information is available at the MSDE site:

http://www.marylandpublicschools.org/about/Pages/DEE/Certification/testing_info/praxis1.aspx

Does MCPS require any additional courses prior to entering CITE?

MCPS does not have course requirements for applicants prior to entering the CITE program, however, elementary teachers in MCPS are required to meet specific science content coursework. The science credit requirements are due within five years of employment with MCPS and comprise

12 credits in science to include biology and 4-6 credits in physical science. While MCPS does not pay teachers for these credits, teachers can take CPD Course offerings usually at a reduced rate compared to college or university course work. Additional information can be found on the MCPS website:

<http://www.montgomeryschoolsmd.org/departments/personnel/certification/current/math-science.aspx>

What is the application process for the CITE Program?

Candidates should contact Sydney Pinkard, instructional specialist with partnerships in MCPS, [Sydney K Pinkard@mcpsmd.org](mailto:Sydney_K_Pinkard@mcpsmd.org), to confirm eligibility for the CITE program. Upon confirmation, candidates should complete the following in parallel:

- 1) contact Carolina Napp-Avelli at cnapp@umd.edu and send transcripts for revision
- 2) apply through and be accepted into the University of Maryland Graduate School at www.gradschool.umd.edu. Applications/screening are completed by a UMCP and MCPS team.

UMD Graduate School General Criteria

- **Quality of previous undergraduate work.** A bachelor's degree from an accredited college/university with a minimum standard average of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate courses. Adequate performance in prerequisite courses for credit that include Numbers and Operations/Algebra, Geometry/Measurement, and Statistics/Probability is required. Official transcripts must be provided.
- **Strength of letters of recommendation from persons competent to judge the applicant's probable success in a teacher preparation program.** Three professional recommendations, including one from current principal/supervisor. These letters can be from the applicant's former professors who are able to give an in-depth evaluation of the applicant's strengths and weaknesses with respect to academic work, or from employers or supervisors who are familiar with the applicant's work experience.
- **Scores on a nationally standardized examination.** As required by the Maryland State Department of Education for teacher preparation programs, a passing score in reading, math, and writing from the Praxis Core Academic Skills for Educators Assessment. Appropriate SAT, ACT, or GRE scores may be supplemented for this assessment. See <https://gradschool.umd.edu/education/edci-med-cert> for more information.
- **Applicant's statement of his or her academic career objectives and their relation to the intended program of study.** These statements help the program to identify students whose goals are consonant with the program's objectives and expertise.
- **Official graduate school application to the University of Maryland at College Park.**

UMD/MCPS CITE Program Requirements

- CV/Resume outlining experiences working with children
- Completion of an interview by a team from MCPS and UMCP

Who can I contact for support and information?

Theresa Nebel Robinson, UMD, CITE Director

tnebrob1@umd.edu

Carolina Napp-Avelli, UMD, Assistant Clinical Professor and Program Liaison

cnapp@umd.edu

Sydney Pinkard, MCPS Instructional Specialist Partnership Program sydney_k_pinakard@mcpsmd.org

Angie Fish, MCPS Coordinator Partnership Program

angie_l_fish@mcpsmd.org