

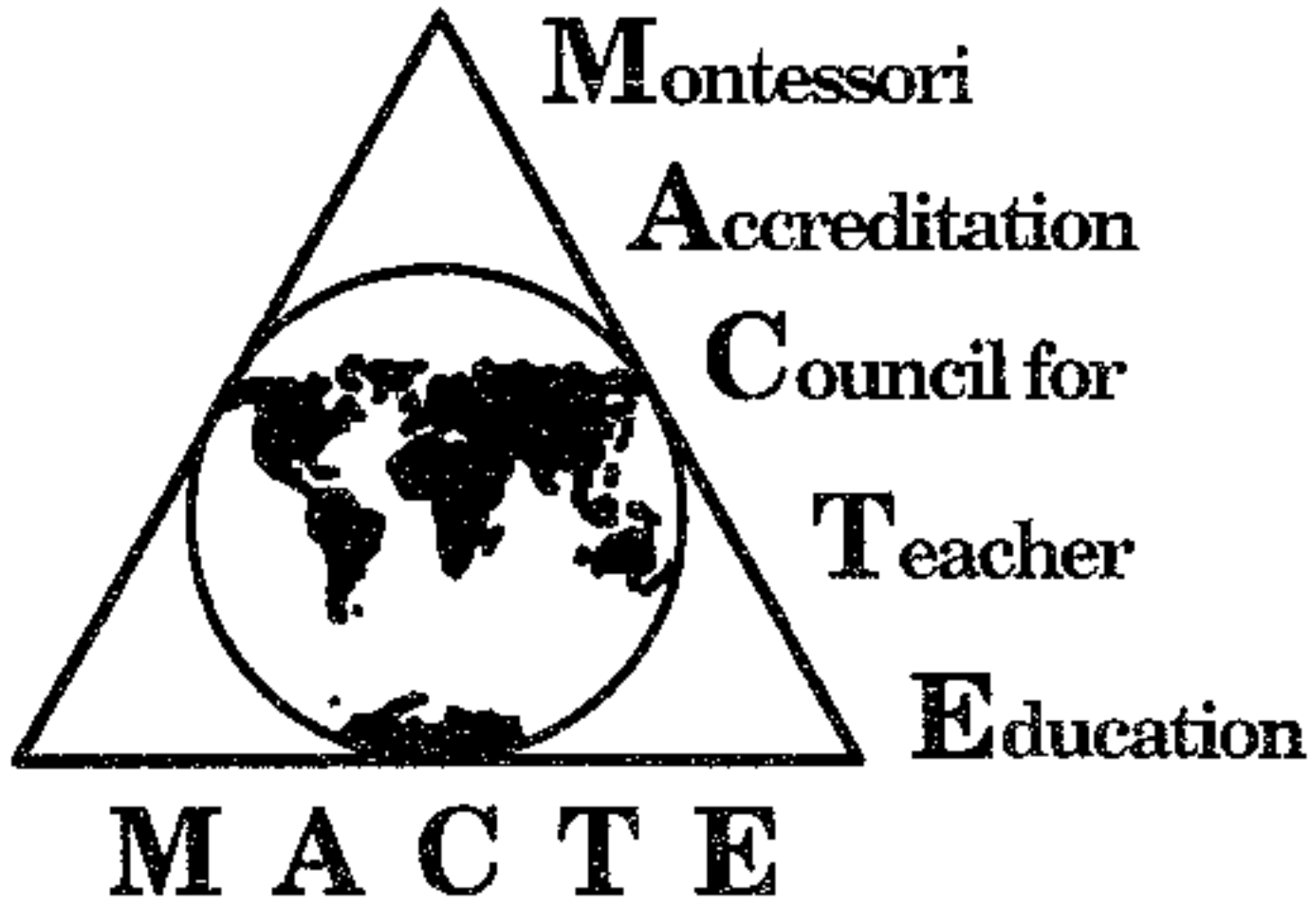
**Questions students often ask
about attending a
Montessori teacher education
institution or program**

- Is this program of high quality?
- How qualified are the faculty?
- Is this a financially stable program that won't close before I complete my education?
- Does it accommodate students' learning needs?
- Will this program prepare me for finding a job in the field?

Accredited programs care about these same questions. They have voluntarily taken steps to ensure that they meet high standards of educational excellence by going through a process called accreditation.

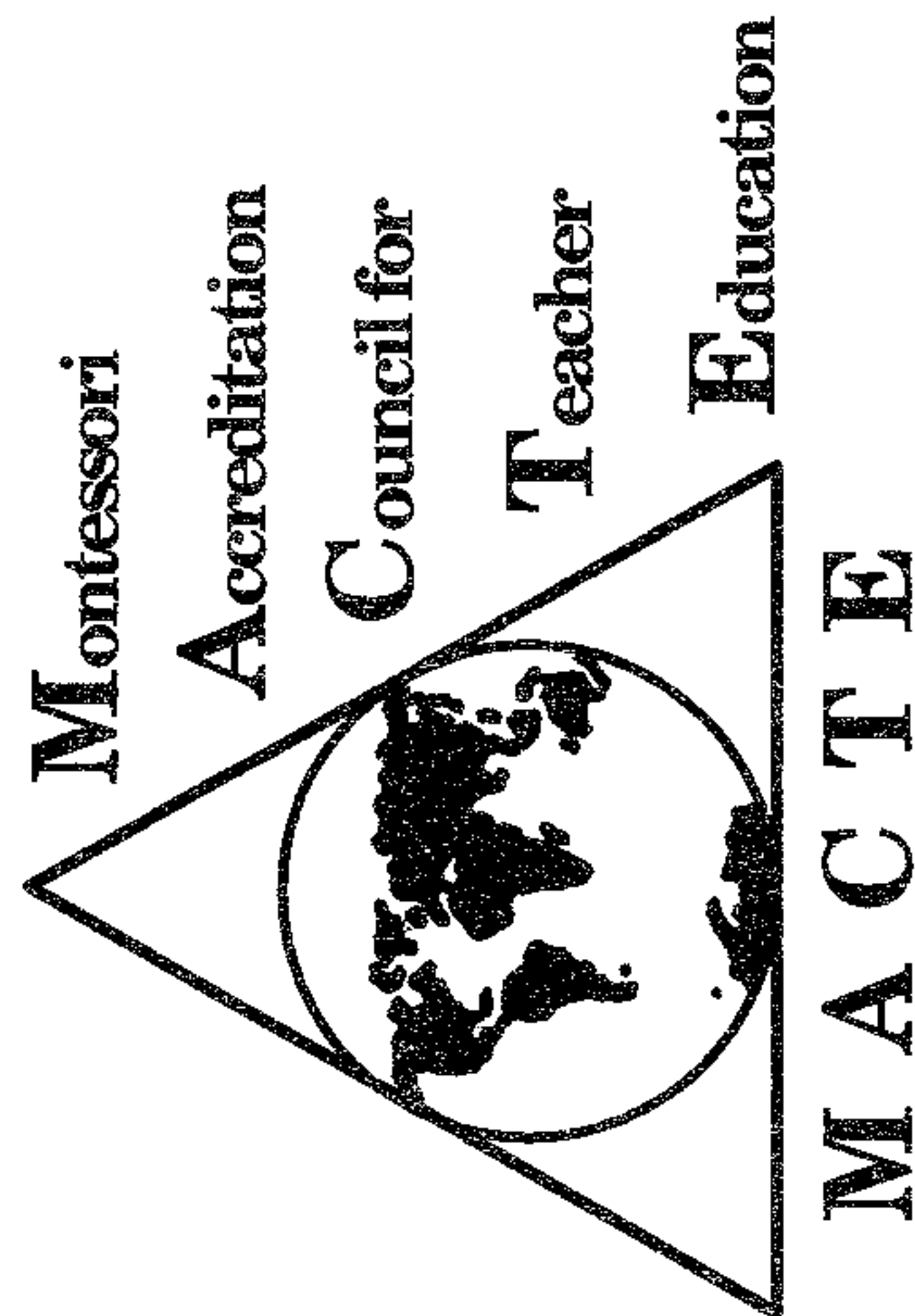
An accredited program is one that meets the MACTE standards of excellence, demonstrates financial stability, offers a comprehensive curriculum, hires competent and credentialed faculty, and has an array of services that respond to students' needs.

Students completing a MACTE-accredited program are assured of the broadest possible opportunity for acceptance of their Montessori credentials throughout the nation and world.



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Student Guide to Accreditation



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Important Features of MACTE Accreditation

MACTE is the premier, internationally recognized, standard-setting and accrediting body for Montessori teacher education. MACTE accreditation is unique because:

- MACTE is recognized by the U.S. Secretary of Education. This recognition is important to state agencies. It also makes it possible for some accredited institutions to offer Title IV funding (federal grants and loans) to enrolled students;
- Standards of accreditation are reviewed and commented on by practitioners and educators in the profession;
- Standards are designed to encompass diversity in curriculum content and in methods of instruction;
- MACTE Commissioners have experience in the profession as practitioners, faculty, administrators, and employers;
- Peer review ensures involvement by people who understand the profession and value the importance of maintaining high standards;
- MACTE staff will assist you with any questions you have concerning accreditation. We encourage you to visit our web site at www.MACTE.org, which features a complete listing of accredited programs by state and country.

MACTE accredits Montessori teacher education programs designed for these age levels:

Infant and Toddler (birth through age 3)
Early Childhood (ages 2 1/2 through 6)
Elementary I or I-II (ages 6-9 or 6-12)
Secondary I or I-II (ages 12-15 or 12-18)

MACTE's History

MACTE was created in 1991 through a merger of two previous groups: the Accrediting Association for Montessori Teacher Education (AAMTE), an outgrowth of an ad hoc committee of Montessori educators founded in 1987; and the Accreditation Council for Childhood Education Specialist Schools (ACCESS), which began accrediting Montessori teacher education institutions and programs in 1982.

It is of great significance that the MACTE Essential Standards and Criteria, which must be implemented in order for an institution or program to achieve accreditation, were written through consensus by representatives of all the major professional societies. These included:

- The Association Montessori Internationale (AMI)
- The American Montessori Society (AMS)
- The International Association of Progressive Montessori (IAPM)
- The National Center for Montessori Education (NCME)
- The London Montessori Center (LMC)
- Montessori Educational Programs International (MEPI)
- The Pan American Montessori Society (PAMS)
- The Montessori Institute of America (MIA)
- The St. Nicholas Montessori Centres of London & Dublin
- Many programs offered by independent institutes not affiliated with any of the above.

The Accreditation Process

An institution or program that decides to apply for accreditation does a comprehensive, in-depth study of the quality of its programs, including its administrative practices, finances, curriculum, student services, faculty competence, and relationships with employers.

In the self-study, an institution or program documents its compliance with a set of standards set by an accrediting body. MACTE is one such accrediting body.

Only after an on-site evaluation visit to verify that the institution/program meets the standards, may it be granted accreditation by MACTE. Initial accreditation is awarded for a maximum of 4 years, with a possible 3-year extension. Programs must periodically demonstrate to themselves and to MACTE that they continue to meet the standards by submitting annual reports and engaging in the same rigorous self-study process described above at least every 7 years.