

**Maryland Approved Alternative Preparation Program (MAAPP)/
Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC)
in Special Education and
Elementary or Secondary Education**
January 2012

Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs):

1. What is the MAAPP/RTC program?

The MAAPP/RTC program is an alternative teacher certification program sponsored by the Anne Arundel County Public Schools (AACPS) in collaboration with the Notre Dame of Maryland University (NDM) and the Maryland State Department of Education (MSDE). This special education MAAPP/RTC sponsors a cohort for individuals to receive intensive pre-employment training, a supervised internship, placement in a special education teaching position, graduate level coursework and mentoring over a two-year period. Completion of this program results in dual certification in special education and elementary education or a secondary content area.

The overall goal for the two-year program has been to increase and retain the number of highly qualified special education teachers in order to improve the achievement of students with disabilities.

2. What qualifications are needed to apply to this program?

- Strong desire to teach students with disabilities
- Bachelor's degree with
 - 30 credit hours in a secondary teaching area (e.g., math) for secondary education certification (middle/high school); OR
 - 6 credit hours each in English, math, science and social studies for elementary education certification.
 - An average of "B" or better in qualifying courses.
- Passing scores on PRAXIS I and PRAXIS II (*Secondary Content area or Elementary Education Content*)

3. What is the Test-in option?

If an applicant wants to teach at a certain level or in a certain subject area, they can take the Praxis II content test in that area/level. If they receive a qualifying score, they are eligible to teach in that area/level.

Example--In the past, an applicant with a Bachelor's degree in English would take the Praxis II in English content and would be eligible to teach English to students with disabilities at the secondary level if they received a qualifying score. With the test-in option, an applicant with a Bachelor's in English who wants to teach at the elementary level, can take and receive a qualifying score on the Praxis II in Elementary Education content and be eligible to teach students with disabilities at the elementary level. The same would be true for other content areas.

4. What is needed to apply?

The application packet should include:

- A letter expressing your interest to Mary P. Tillar, Director of Special Education
- A resumé
- College transcripts (*3 copies of official transcripts from all colleges attended*)
- Current references (*letters of recommendation—2.*)
- Praxis I scores (*information on Praxis tests can be found at www.ets.org*)
- Praxis II content scores

5. Which Praxis tests are needed for certification?

The AACPS/NDM MAAPP program is a dual certification program. Program completers are eligible for a Maryland State Department of Education Standard Professional Certification in special education and another content area (either elementary education or a secondary content area) so Praxis tests must be taken in both areas.

In addition to the Praxis tests required for admission to the program (Praxis I and Praxis II content), there is currently one additional Praxis II test in special education and one additional Praxis II test in content pedagogy that are required. These additional tests must be completed by the end of the 2-year program period.

Information on Praxis testing for Maryland teacher certification can be found at www.ets.org. Click on Praxis and go to Maryland for specific subject testing requirements.

6. When is the interview process scheduled?

All applicants who meet the admission qualifications will be invited to interview with a panel of program, school system and university representatives. The interviews are scheduled toward the end of March and early April and consist of a standard set of questions and a writing sample.

7. How do I know what Praxis tests to take?

Information on Praxis testing can be found at www.ets.org. This website provides information on the tests and qualifying scores needed for certification in Maryland. Testing sites and dates are also provided.

8. How are applicants selected to participate in the program?

Selection decisions are based on all application packet components along with results of the interview/writing sample process. School system needs determine the size of the MAAPP program each year. Previous cohorts have ranged in size from 8 to 15 participants.

9. When does the program begin?

Selected applicants are invited to an informational meeting in mid-late May where all program requirements are reviewed. Following this meeting, selected applicants must commit to participate and agree to attend a MAAPP/RTC Orientation Meeting in late May. Pre-employment Training begins in June with an Orientation Meeting that covers requirements, expectations and resources for the 2-year program.

10. If I am currently employed, will I have to quit my current job?

The first graduate course begins in June and is held during late afternoon/early evening hours. The Internship begins in late June and requires participants to work during the day. Due to the time commitment during the Internship, it would be difficult to continue other employment.

11. What are the different parts of the MAAPP/RTC program? How long does each last?

Pre-Employment Training (2 graduate-level courses) and the Internship take place concurrently during the first summer of the program. A series of Summer Seminars are also held during the summer months to build the capacity of the cohort participant during the Internship phase. The Residency begins at the start of the school year and lasts for a 2-year period.

12. Where does the Internship take place?

The Internship generally takes place at school sites throughout the county where summer school services are scheduled. Participants are hired as teacher assistants and work closely with students, a mentor and other site-based staff.

13. How do I secure a special education teaching position?

Selected participants will work with MAAPP/RTC program and Human Resources staff to submit all application documents and ensure completion of all processes. Participants will then be invited to interview with principals for available special education teaching positions.

14. What is the salary and benefits associated with a teaching position in AACPS?

Information on salary and benefits can be found at www.aacps.org under Human Resources.

15. How much does the MAAPP/RTC program cost?

Costs for the MAAPP/RTC program are kept at a minimum. Each semester cohort members are responsible for a registration/technology fee (currently \$125), the cost of any required course textbooks, and a tuition fee (currently approximately \$200; this fee is dependent on the available funding). An e-portfolio account is also required (currently \$125).

16. What courses are taken during the program?

Pre-Employment Training (first summer):

SPE 526 – Special Education for the Classroom Teacher

EDU 509 – Processes and Acquisition of Reading (Elem) OR

EDU 580 – Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Area I (Secon)

Residency:

SPE 546 – Methods of Teaching Students with Special Needs

SPE 576 – Communication Skills for the School Based Professional

EDU 519 – Human Development and Learning

EDU 542 – Instruction in Reading (Elem) OR

EDU 551 – Teaching Reading and Writing in the Content Area II (Secon)

SPE 570 – Individualizing the Curriculum/Strategies for Intervention (Elem) OR

SPE 571 – Vocational/Transition Skills/Special Education Methods (Secon)

EDU 511 – Assessment of Reading (Elem only)

EDU 510 – Elementary Reading Materials (Elem only)

17. Where are the courses held?

Courses are usually held at Anne Arundel Community College in Arnold and at the Arundel Mills site. Some courses are held in schools or other nearby community locations.

18. How do I register for the courses?

Registration materials are distributed by the MAAPP/RTC Program Liaison each semester.

19. What type of teacher certification will I have through this program?

During the 2-year program period, participants hold a Resident Teacher Certificate (RTC) which certifies them as highly qualified under the federal law in Special Education and another content area (Elementary Education or a Secondary content area).

Successful program completers are eligible for the Maryland State Department of Education Standard Professional Certificate (SPC) in Special Education and another content area (Elementary Education or a Secondary content area).

20. Will I receive my Master's degree through this program?

MAAPP/RTC cohort members complete 24-27 graduate credits towards completion of a Master's degree. Program completers may receive their Master's degree with a few remaining courses:

EDU 557 – Leadership I

EDU 543 – Analyzing, Interpreting and Reading Education Research

EDU 567 – Learning Theory and Practice (Secondary only)

Elective (Secondary only)

21. What grade point average do I need to stay in the program?

A "B" average must be maintained to remain in the program.

22. Will I be working with a mentor?

A mentor from the MAAPP/RTC program is assigned to each cohort member. Mentors work with cohort members in their schools at least bi-weekly and at monthly seminars during year 1. In addition, the Division of Special Education provides a New Teacher Induction program which provides professional development for all new special education teachers. Many schools also have Right Start advisors who provide mentoring services to new teachers.