



Approved Changes in the Northern Lights Career Ladder Affecting Waldorf and Montessori programs in VT

At the January 23, 2015 meeting of the statewide Professional Preparation and Development committee, (the advisory body for Northern Lights Career Development Center) they approved the following change, effectively immediately to the early childhood Career Ladder. Please contact Northern Lights staff if you have any questions about this change in the Career Ladder.

Approved changes regarding the status of staff with Waldorf or Montessori training: *Recognize teachers* who have successfully completed MACTE accredited Montessori or WECAN accredited Waldorf early childhood teacher programs, who are working in accredited Montessori or Waldorf programs (respectively) *as if they have credits toward an early childhood major*, when they also have an *unrelated degree*¹ from an accredited higher education institution. Actual number of approved credits toward the major will be determined by Northern Lights, based on documented academic and practicum hours. These credits will be recognized only as part of application for a Career Ladder Certificate from Northern Lights Career Development Center.

NOTE: these will *not* be recognized as college credits toward teacher licensure, a degree or a higher level on the Early Childhood Career Ladder.

For example, if "Susie" has a Bachelor Degree in business and has successfully completed an early childhood teacher training program from a nationally accredited Montessori or Waldorf institution, then she could ask Northern Lights to analyze the documentation of the Montessori or Waldorf credits. Northern Lights would then allocate a specific number of credits toward meeting the education requirements of an Early Childhood Level IVA Career Ladder certificate requirement (Bachelor Degree with 30 related early childhood credits).

Waldorf Criteria for Review

The Waldorf Early Childhood Association of North America (WECAN) accredits organizations that are recognized Waldorf schools for children and Waldorf training for teachers. Teachers who meet the three criteria below may have the equivalent of 28 credits recognized towards an early childhood major or concentration in order to earn a VT Career Ladder Certificate.

3 Criteria:

1. Documentation of successful completion of a full 2 year program which is accredited by an organization approved by WECAN, earning an early childhood Waldorf teacher certificate. (this does not include summer institutes or renewal programs), and
2. Currently work as a teacher or director in a Waldorf approved program, and
3. Transcript documenting an earned, unrelated degree¹ from a higher education institution that meet the Northern Lights accreditation criteria².

1 unrelated degree as defined by the VT Northern Lights Career Ladder

<http://northernlightscdc.org/career-pathways/early-childhood-pathways/>

2 Northern Lights criteria for Higher Education accreditation is the same criteria as the Community College of VT:

http://northernlightscdc.org/wp-content/uploads/2011/08/Level-IV-checkingaccreditation_10-1-11.pdf

Montessori Criteria for Review

The Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE) is the accrediting body recognized by the US Department of Education as setting the standard for teacher education programs under two primary groups: American Montessori Society (AMS) and Association Montessori International (AMI). International Montessori Council (IMC) programs also meet MACTE standards. Teachers who meet the following 3 criteria and are seeking an early childhood Career Ladder certificate, may have the documentation analyzed by Northern Lights staff, as equivalent credits toward a major in early childhood.

3 Criteria:

1. Documentation of successful completion of an Infant /Toddler (0-3); preschool (2.5/3 to age 6) and/or elementary I (ages 6-9) MACTE accredited teacher training program, and
2. Currently work as a teacher or director in an accredited Montessori program
3. Transcript documenting an earned, unrelated degree¹ from a higher education institution that meet the Northern Lights accreditation criteria².

Once these three criteria are met, Northern Lights will do a credit analysis based on the Carnegie Education Unit: 15 academic hours equals 1 credit; 30 practicum hours equals 1 credit. The resulting recognized credits will count toward the required credits in an early childhood major, when applying for a VT Career Ladder certificate.

Documentation of successful completion of the 30-hour early childhood course from a MACTE accredited institution, would be considered equivalent to a 30 hour Fundamentals for Early Childhood Professionals course. The candidate would need to meet the other related education requirements to meet the Level I early childhood Career Ladder education criteria.

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Feb. 2, 2015

<http://northernlightscdc.org>

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