

2019 Master Teacher Fellowship Admissions FAQ



ELIGIBILITY

I teach sixth grade in a K-6 or K-8 school. Do I apply as an elementary or middle school teacher?

- If you are teaching under a Common Branch license in a K-6 or K-8 school, you would apply as an elementary teacher.
- If you are teaching under a math or science middle school or secondary license, you would apply as a middle school teacher.
- In the case that you are teaching under a Common Branch license, but teach in a 6-8 or a 6-12 school, you would apply as a middle school teacher.

I am a math teacher who teaches computer science. Should I apply as a mathematics teacher or a computer science teacher?

You should apply for a fellowship as a computer science teacher only if your full teaching program is computer science courses. If you teach a mix of math and computer science, you should apply as a math teacher. Elementary and middle school teachers are not eligible to apply for a computer science fellowship.

I applied for a fellowship with MfA but was declined. May I apply again?

Yes, there is no limit to how many times you may apply for a fellowship with MfA. However, you may not apply for any fellowship at MfA more than twice in a four year period. We encourage you to use this policy when making decisions about when to apply.

APPLICATION CRITERIA

What makes for a strong application?

- An application that is well-written, complete, and submitted on time
- A strong academic background in math and/or science
- A teaching license in math or science
- A clear understanding of what MfA offers and how an MfA Master Teacher Fellowship will help you achieve your professional goals

PRAXIS EXAM

I'm an elementary school teacher. What Praxis exam do I take?

Elementary school teachers must take either the Middle School Math (5169) or Middle School Science (5440) exam. For more information, please see our Praxis Exam Guide.

I'm a middle school teacher. Why can't I take the Middle School Math or Science Praxis exam?

Qualified applicants to our programs demonstrate content knowledge that is at a higher level than that which they teach. All middle school and high school teachers must take one of the Content Knowledge Praxis exams.

Will I be reimbursed for the cost of the Praxis exam?

We do not reimburse the cost of Praxis exams. However, there is a Praxis Reimbursement Hardship Application available on the 2019 application. Candidates who have not been previously reimbursed and who demonstrate financial hardship may apply to have the full cost of the exam reimbursed.

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OBSERVATION REPORT

What if I do not have a recent formal observation report? Can I submit an informal observation instead?

If you do not have a recent formal observation report (preferred), you may submit your two most recent informal observation reports along with your last formal observation.

REFERENCES

I have a new principal or assistant principal this year. Can I request that my former principal or assistant principal serve as my reference?

The Colleague Reference can be a current or former supervisor, teaching colleague, or professional peer. A teacher who currently has a fellowship with MfA may serve as a reference, and we ask that you keep in mind that strong references tend to come from individuals who have seen you teach in some capacity.

Can my reference submit a letter of recommendation instead of the reference form?

No. Letters of recommendation will not be accepted in place of completing the MfA reference form.

TRANSCRIPTS

Do I need to submit a transcript from every higher education institution I've attended?

You should submit a transcript from every degree-granting institution you've attended. Additional transcripts should not be submitted unless you completed STEM or pedagogy coursework at the institution. For instance, you should not submit a transcript from a semester abroad program that only shows history courses.

I've submitted my transcripts before in a previous application. Do I need to submit them again?

If you have previously submitted your transcript, you do not need to resubmit. Be sure to check the "Transcript on file at MfA" box in the Education History section of the application.