



VMI Post-Master's Certificate of Graduate Study
Mathematics Education Leadership
Information for Program Applicants and School Officials

What is the Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI)?

The Vermont Mathematics Initiative (VMI) is a nonprofit organization dedicated to improving mathematics teaching and learning through a variety of initiatives. Now in its twenty-fifth year, the VMI is dedicated to supporting highly effective mathematics instruction so that all children can learn the rigorous mathematics needed for success in higher education and the workplace. More information about the VMI organization can be found at www.vmimathematics.com.

What is the VMI's Post-Master's Certificate of Graduate Study Program?

The Post-Master's Program is a five-semester (including summer semester) mathematics education leadership program. The *Series on Mathematics Education Leadership* is designed to provide current and aspiring math coaches, math specialists, math interventionists and leaders in mathematics services for students who struggle in math the specialized skills and knowledge needed to support systemic mathematics instructional excellence for all students. Moving from "pockets of excellence" to "systematic excellence" requires change at all levels of our systems, and school and district level mathematics instructional leaders are essential in this mission. If we are to address the mathematics education issues facing us, we need confident, knowledgeable, and committed math instructional leaders. Thus, the overarching goals of the series are to prepare mathematics instructional leaders to:

- support the elimination of mathematics achievement gaps based on race, income, ethnicity and language.
- increase the level and depth of mathematics learning for all students in their system.
- engage all students in their system in meaningful, interesting and fulfilling mathematics content.

What is the academic component of the Post-Master's program?

For each of the five semesters an educator is enrolled, they will complete one, 3-credit graduate course. Fieldwork runs concurrently with each course. Each participant of the certificate program will be assigned an advisor who will help participants apply new learning to their work in schools and districts. Upon completing the full five semester VMI program, a teacher will have earned 15 graduate credits and will have completed all of the requirements for the Certificate of Graduate Study from Vermont State University (VTSU).

Please note many assignments require participants to incorporate new learning into their teaching or leadership activities. Thus, all participants need ongoing opportunities to apply learning to their educational setting.



When and where does the program take place?

The series is cohort-based, starting each Fall. The next cohort will be admitted in Fall 2024 and continue over four additional semesters including summer 2025. Courses during the academic year will be held full days on Friday/Saturday “weekends”: three during the fall semester and three during the spring semester. The summer course is takes place over one week at the end of June. VMI courses take place in the Burlington area.

What are some of the benefits of participation?

In addition to coursework in mathematics leadership, the VMI provides support for participants in their schools and districts. Throughout the program, participants:

- Receive ongoing support from a VMI advisor who will help one transfer new and growing understandings to mathematics leadership initiatives. Through regular contact, the VMI advisor offers a professional relationship that enables the participant to maximize the Post-Master’s experience.
- Learn in a supportive setting. Through engagement with VMI faculty, including mathematicians and mathematics education leaders, and with one’s cohort members, participants are part of a collaborative learning environment.
- Receive ongoing professional development for enhancing leadership skills and for preparing to take on expanded leadership roles in their schools or districts.

What is the application process?

Applying to the VMI Post-Graduate Program is a two-step process as described below:

- (1) completing the VMI portion of the application. This can be accessed at www.vmimathematics.com (posted by May 2024) or by emailing the VMI Director, Judi Laird (judi@vmimathematics.com). Once the complete application is received, a VMI representative will confirm receipt. Applicants will be notified within three weeks of receipt of the complete application of their acceptance to the VMI program.
- (2) Upon notification of acceptance to the VMI, applicants are prompted to then complete the VTSU portion of the application. VTSU may require submission of a transcript, a resume and a few other items. You will receive further correspondence once the VMI application is completed, submitted and you have been notified of acceptance.

What is the cost?

Tuition for 2024-25 has been set at \$679 per credit; thus, each three-credit course is \$2037.00. VMI is committed to keeping that rate constant while you are enrolled in the five-course program. There are no added fees assessed by VMI.