



## BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

# WE ARE GOVSTATE

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## CONTACT

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## Program Requirements

After meeting the university admission requirements, students must meet the following additional requirements to be admitted to and continue in the Early Childhood Education program:

- must have a cumulative G.P.A. of 2.5 or higher on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate work attempted from an accredited 2- or 4-year institution
- must have a grade of "C" or better in all general education courses
- must earn a grade of "B-" or better in all teacher education coursework at GSU
- must currently work full-time in an early childhood classroom as a teacher or paraprofessional

## Program Overview

- General Education Requirements: 49-52 hours
- Professional Coursework: 60 hours
- Teacher Specialization Coursework (ESL): 18 hours

Total Credit Hours: 121 hours

## INITIAL LICENSURE (TEACHER WORKFORCE)

Candidates who want to earn a bachelor's degree and are seeking an initial Illinois Professional Educator License in Early Childhood Education (Birth to Grade 2). Candidates must currently work full-time in an approved early childhood setting, such as teachers in childcare centers or as paraprofessionals in elementary schools.

Earning a degree in Early Childhood Education (ECE) prepares you for working with children from birth through second grade. At GSU, you will gain the professional knowledge and competencies needed to become a highly effective educator so you can provide your students with nurturing and safe learning environments and help make a positive difference in the lives of young children and their families. Through your studies, you will learn the educational,

developmental, social, and physical needs of young children and work alongside mentor teachers who model best practices in early childhood.

## CAREER PATHS

Many doors will open for you once you earn your BA in ECE. Here are just some of the potential careers you can pursue:

- kindergarten, first, or second-grade teacher
- preschool or infant/toddler teacher
- family/parent educator or specialist
- child and family advocate
- assessment specialist
- early intervention specialist
- curriculum specialist
- education coordinator



## How to Apply

Whether you're a freshman or transfer student, you'll find your fit at GSU.

To find more information for your student type, visit the GSU Admissions webpage at: [govst.edu/student-type](http://govst.edu/student-type)

Ready to apply? Visit our Application Information webpage at: [apply.govst.edu/apply](http://apply.govst.edu/apply)

## Financial Support

The Office of Financial Aid is available year-round and committed to helping you navigate the financial aid process. There are many scholarships available to help you save on your education.

Visit the Financial Aid webpage for more information at: [govst.edu/Admissions/Financial\\_Aid](http://govst.edu/Admissions/Financial_Aid)

## More Information

Scan the QR code to learn more about the program:



## Program Highlights

- Prior college coursework can be transferred
- Opportunities to earn credit for prior learning and experience
- Opportunities for job-embedded clinical field experiences and student teaching for candidates who work in an approved early childhood setting
- Evening and online courses to accommodate candidates in the workforce

## Degree and Certifications Earned

- Bachelor's degree in Early Childhood Education from an accredited university
- Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) with endorsements:
  - Early Childhood Education (Birth to Grade 2)
  - English as a Second Language (ESL) (K-12)
  - Early Childhood Special Education Approval (PreK)
- Illinois Gateways to Opportunity credentials:
  - Early Childhood, Levels 2-5
  - Infant Toddler, Levels 2-3
- Must currently work full-time in the early childhood field

## Class Delivery

- Time: evenings
- Modality: mostly online (field experience courses are in-person at centers/schools)