



BACHELOR OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Initial Licensure (Incumbent 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 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

Contact

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Program Highlights

- Tuition may be 100% free
- All prior college coursework from an approved associate's degree in Early Childhood or Child Development can be transferred
- 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)
 - Childhood Special Education Approval (Birth to Grade 2)
- Illinois Gateways to Opportunity credentials:
 - Early Childhood, Levels 2-5
 - Infant Toddler, Levels 2-3

Class Delivery

- Time: evenings
- Modality: online (face-to-face courses are also offered)





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 work full-time in the early childhood field, such as teachers in childcare centers or as paraprofessionals in elementary schools; site must be approved by the 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

Program Overview

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

Total Credit Hours: 121 hours

More Information

View additional information on the Early Childhood Education webpage at: govst.edu/earlychildhoodeducation

Scan the QR code to learn more about the program.



How to Apply

Ready to apply? Visit our Application Information webpage at: 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

Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity Scholarship

As a member of the Early Childhood Incumbent Workforce, you may be eligible to receive financial aid through the Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program. To qualify for the scholarship, these are some of the criteria that must be met:

- be junior status at GSU
- be an Undergraduate Early Childhood candidate
- work full-time in an approved early childhood setting
- complete the FAFSA
- become a Gateways Registry member

To learn more about the scholarship and how to apply, please visit the ECACE webpage at:

isac.org/students/during-college/types-of-financial-aid/scholarships/ecace.html

