



MASTER OF ARTS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Initial Licensure

Candidates who have a bachelor's degree from an accredited university and are seeking a master's degree and an initial Illinois Professional Educator License in Early Childhood Education (Birth to Grade 2).

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 MA 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

- Prior college coursework can be transferred to cover prerequisite courses
- Opportunities for job-embedded clinical field experiences and student teaching for candidates who work in an approved early childhood setting
- Only 40 hours of coursework
- Evening and online courses to accommodate candidates in the workforce

Degree and Certifications Earned

- Master's degree in Early Childhood Education from an accredited university
- Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL) with endorsements:
 - Early Childhood Education (Birth to Grade 2)
 - Early 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: evening
- Modality: online synchronous (at a scheduled time)





Program Coursework

- EDEC 6099: Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Education (4)
- EDEC 6550: Family, Community, and Culture (3)
- EDEC 6551: Field Experience 1-Infants, Toddlers, and Families (1)
- EDEC 6560: Curriculum, Literacy, & Exceptional Learners in Preprimary Grades (3)
- EDEC 6561: Field Experience 2: Preprimary (1)
- EDEC 6570: Literacy in Early Childhood Education (3)
- EDEC 6571: Field Experience 3: Literacy in Primary Grades (1)
- EDEC 6580: Math, Science, and Social Studies in Early Childhood Education (3)
- EDEC 6581: Field Experience 4: Math, Science, and Social Studies in Primary Grades (1)
- EDUC 7410: Classroom Management (1)
- EDUC 7440: Educational Psychology II - Learning, Assessment, and Classroom Management (3)
- EDEC 7570: Assessment & Differentiated Instruction in Early Childhood (3)
- EDEC 8810: Research and Issues in Education I (3)
- EDEC 8811: Research and Issues in Education II (1)
- EDEC 8999: Student Teaching in Early Childhood Education (9)

Total Credit Hours: 40

Total Number of Courses: 15

Total Semesters: 5 (2 years)

There are 5 prerequisite courses needed to begin the program. Equivalent courses previously taken can be transferred. Note: Up to 3 courses may be taken during the first year of the program, if approved.

- EDUC 2310: Foundations of Education (3)
- EDUC 2330: Educational Psychology I - Child Growth and Development (3)
- SPED 6101: Survey of Students with Exceptionalities (3)
- EDCP 6101: Introduction to Educational Technology (3)
- ENGL 2131: Children's Literature (3)

How to Apply

Visit the Graduate Admissions webpage for information at: govst.edu/Admissions/Student_Type/Graduate_Admissions/

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

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 2.75 or higher on a 4.0 scale in all undergraduate work from an accredited institution (GPA of 2.5 to 2.74 may be conditionally admitted)
- must earn a grade of "B-" or better in all teacher education coursework at GSU

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.

