

Early Childhood Education

Bachelor's Program: Option 3 - Initial Licensure (Teacher Workforce)

Program Overview

Degree: Bachelor of Arts in Early Childhood Education

Certifications earned:

- Illinois Professional Educator License (PEL)
 - Early Childhood Endorsement, Birth to Grade 2
 - Early Childhood Special Education Approval Endorsement, PreK
 - ESL Endorsement, K-12
- IL Gateways Credentials:
 - Early Childhood (ECE), Level 5
 - Infant Toddler (ITC), Level 3

Candidates: Candidates who do not have a bachelor's degree and seek initial licensure with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education (Birth to Grade 2). Candidates must be in the teacher workforce (i.e. currently employed full-time as teacher in a childcare center or as a paraprofessional in a school) - and are approved as such.

Coursework

Introductory (5 courses, 15 hours)

- EDUC 2310: Foundations of Education (3)
- EDUC 2330: Educational Psychology I - Child Growth and Development (3)
- SPED 2101: Survey of Students with Exceptionalities (3)
- EDCP 2101: Introduction to Educational Technology (3)
- ENGL 2131: Literature for Children and Adolescents (3) *-part of GenEds*

Professional (14 courses, 42 credit hours)

- EDUC 3410: Classroom Management and Responsive Learning Environments (2)
- EDUC 3550: Applied Educational Psychology (3)*
 - EDEC 3555: Learning
 - EDEC 3556: Classroom Management and Environments
 - EDEC 3557: Assessment
- EDEC 3099: Developmentally Appropriate Practices in Early Childhood Education (3)
- EDEC 3570: Assessment & Differentiated Instruction in Early Childhood Education (3)*
 - EDEC 3575: Assessment Practices
 - EDEC 3576: Types of Assessments
 - EDEC 3577: Differentiated Instruction and Culturally Relevant Assessments
- EDEC 3590: STEAM in Education (3)*
 - EDEC 3595: Integrated Curriculum and the Arts
 - EDEC 3596: Project-Based Learning
 - EDEC 3597: STEAM
- EDEC 4550: Family, Community, and Culture (3)*
 - EDEC 4555: Family
 - EDEC 4556: Community
 - EDEC 4557: Culture
- EDEC 4551: Field Experience 1 - Infants & Toddlers (1)
- EDEC 4560: Science and Social Studies Methods, CRTL & Exceptional Learners (3)*
 - EDEC 4565: CRTL & Exceptional Learners
 - EDEC 4566: Science - Teaching and Learning
 - EDEC 4567: Social Studies - Teaching and Learning
- EDEC 4561: Field Experience 2 - Preprimary Grades (1)
- EDEC 4570: Literacy Methods in Early Childhood Education (3)*
 - EDEC 4575: Literacy & Language - Teaching and Learning
 - EDEC 4576: Reading
 - EDEC 4577: Writing & Literature

- EDEC 4571: Field Experience 3 - Literacy in Primary Grades (1)
- EDEC 4580: Math Methods in Early Childhood Education (3)*
 - EDEC 4585: Math - Teaching and Learning
 - EDEC 4586: Numbers, Operations & Algebraic Thinking
 - EDEC 4587: Measurement, Geometry & Data
- EDEC 4581: Field Experience 4 - Math in Primary Grades (1)
- EDEC 4999: Student Teaching in Early Childhood Education (12)

**For these 7 courses (each of the modularized courses), candidates may be eligible for credits for prior learning & experience.*

Teaching Specialization - ESL Certificate (18 hours)

- BBED 4501: Teaching English as a Second Language (3)
- BBED 4520: Foundations of Bilingual and ESL Education (3)
- BBED 4525: Assessment of Language of Minority Students (3)
- BBED 4530: Methods and Materials for Teaching in Bilingual Programs (3)
- BBED 4538: Cross Cultural Education (3)
- BBED 4977: Reading Strategies in the Bilingual and ESL Classroom (3)

Total Program Hours: 72

Total Program Semesters: 5-7 (2-3 years)

Course Offering and Design

Time: evenings (except field experiences)

Modality: online synchronous (at a scheduled time), online asynchronous, face-to-face (intro courses & field experiences)

Design: Most program courses are designed in three 1-credit hour modules (5 weeks each).

Candidates may be eligible to earn credit for prior learning and experience for some courses modules. To do this, candidates must pass an exam (Prior Learning Assessment - PLA) for each modularized course at the end of the semester before taking the course. The exam and completed forms must be completed during a certain time period.

Field Experiences: There are opportunities for job-embedded field experiences for the 4 clinical field experience courses and student teaching. Candidates may be eligible if the criteria for approved schools and for each course are met, as well as the requirements for job-embedded field experiences.

Forms must be completed by the given date or candidates may not be able to do job-embedded field experiences.

Program Start: fall start only

Course Schedule: ECE program courses are only offered once a year.

Some courses have prerequisites that are required to be followed (i.e. courses must be taken in order).

Gen Eds (49 hours)

- Math: 3 hours
- Science: 7 hours (2 courses and 1 lab)
- Written communication: 6 hours
- Oral communication/speech: 3 hours
- Health: 3 hours
- Social Science: 9 hours
- Humanities or Fine Arts: 3 hours (preferably Non-Western Humanities or Third World Culture)
- Humanities - ENGL 2131, Children's Literature: 3 hours
- Fine Arts: 3 hours
- other: 10 hours

-equivalent courses can be transferred

Total Degree Hours: 121