

M.ED. EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION



The graduate-level Early Childhood Education program at Millersville University prepares professionals for teaching and administrative positions in childcare and preschool settings, elementary schools, early intervention special education programs and colleges.

PROGRAM OVERVIEW

The Master of Education degree program in Early Childhood Education is based on knowledge and developmentally appropriate practices for the teaching and learning of young children (birth through 8 years of age). Blended and fully online options are available.

As an interdisciplinary program, it focuses on the connections of children, family, educational settings and community so essential to a young child's total developmental and individual diverse needs. The program addresses early childhood issues and principles using sound research practices and includes a focus on the graduate student's individual professional needs.

Admission to the Early Childhood Education program is open to those applicants who possess a baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited four-year college or university and a Pennsylvania Instructional I Certification in elementary education, early childhood education or special education. Applicants who have not earned certification in one of these fields may satisfy Instructional I Certificate requirements concurrently.

WHAT WILL YOU LEARN?

The Early Childhood Education program features a variety of coursework intended to prepare graduates as professional and passionate educators. Professional core courses explore research methods, student psychology and education philosophies. Specific early childhood education classes discuss current practices and research; education in the home, school and community; and developmental delays. Students complete their study by developing a thesis or through a non-research option. A written comprehensive examination, created and evaluated by the graduate faculty, is required of all students at the end of the program, and is to be scheduled during the final semester.

CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- Elementary school teacher
- Education administrator
- Childcare center director
- Special education teacher
- Teacher assistant
- Child, family and school social workers
- Instructional coordinator



PROGRAM CURRICULUM

I. The Professional Studies Core (9 s.h.)

- EDFN 601 Methods of Research (3)
- Choose one:
 - PSYC 525 Advanced Developmental Psychology (3)
 - EDFN 545 Advanced Educational Psychology (3)
 - PSYC 625 Human Growth and Development (3)
- Choose one:
 - EDFN 511 Comparative Education (3)
 - EDFN 603 Philosophy of Education (3)
 - EDFN 604 Education and Public Policy (3)

II. Required Courses (15 s.h.)

- ECHD 611 Current Practices and Research: Affective and Psychomotor Emphasis (3)
- ECHD 612 Current Practices and Research: Cognitive Emphasis (3) or ECHD 519 Seminar in Early Childhood Education (3)
- ECHD 613 Early Childhood Education: Home, School and Community (3)
- ECHD 614 Advanced Curriculum in Early Childhood Education (3)
- SPED 618 Early Intervention for Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers with Developmental Delays (3)

III. Electives (Select One Option – 12 s.h.)

With prior approval of graduate program coordinator:

- Research Option:
 - ECHD 699 Thesis (3)
 - Other Electives (9)
- Non-Research Option:
 - Other Electives (12)

IV. Exit Exam

A written comprehensive examination, written and evaluated by the graduate faculty, is required of all students at the end of the program, and is to be scheduled during the final semester.

CERTIFICATIONS AND ELECTIVE OPTIONS

English as a Second Language:

The English as a Second Language (ESL) concentration encourages graduate students to study and practice second language acquisition, linguistic diversity and language interventions through a clinical practicum. Students concurrently study literature, linguistics and other multicultural aspects.

- EDUC 561 Second Language Acquisition
- EDUC 562 Teaching English Language Learners
- EDUC 563 Linguistic and Cultural Diversity
- EDUC 564 Assessment, Policies & Practices in Teaching English Language Learners
- EDUC 565 Language and Literacy Interventions: Clinical Practicum

Online STEM Endorsement

The STEM program endorsement is intended to improve a teacher's skills in dealing with complex classroom settings. The STEM endorsement is designed to provide additional knowledge and promote skills related to more integrative ways to deliver content in these areas.

- **SCIENCE**– ACTE 651 Science Curriculum and Reform
- **TECHNOLOGY** – ACTE 625 Technology and Assessment for Learning
- **ENGINEERING** – (Choose 1)
 - ACTE 655 Integrative STEM Education
 - EDTE 604 Engineering Principles and Concepts for the Non-Engineer
- **MATH** – (Choose 1)
 - EDUC 651 Mathematics in the School Program
 - MATH 610 Problem Solving

Online Teaching Endorsement

This program is among the first in the state approved to deliver the PDE endorsement in Online Teaching and consists of twelve (12) graduate credits offered by the Educational Foundations department in a fully online format.

- ACTE 630 Current Technology for Online Instruction
- ACTE 632 Online Learning Environments
- ACTE 633 Responding to Individual Learners
- ACTE 634 Legal and Ethical Issues in Online Education

Gifted Education Certificate & Endorsement

This fully online program is intended to provide educators with the knowledge and skills needed to work with students, families, and the community to provide a continuum of services and a nurturing learning environment for a diverse range of gifted learners.

- GFED 670 Psychology of the Gifted
- GFED 674 Programming for the Gifted
- GFED 675 Evaluating Instructional Effectiveness
- GFED 676 Teaching Gifted Learners: Instructional Strategies

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