

Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education

(This degree elevation was approved by the Academic Senate on November 17, 2022, approved by the President on November 21, 2022, and the CSU Chancellor's office on January 24, 2023.)

Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education

The Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education (ECE, 30-36 units) is designed to foster the development of educators who can apply research-based knowledge in designing developmentally and culturally appropriate curriculum and assessment strategies for children ages birth through 8. Candidates develop strategies and approaches for building family-school-community partnerships. The ECE program continues to develop teacher leaders and advocates of young children, families, and the field. We have revised the program to now offer more subject matter content, specifically candidates learn evidence-based practices that are culturally responsive in building skills and the knowledge for literacy development and learning, for integrated mathematics with STEM education, and for early intervention. Candidates will also develop a broader understanding of the diversity of family structures and child-rearing practices and apply that expanded understanding into the curriculum and interactions with families. Given the challenges facing young children and families, candidates critically reflect on issues that impact young children's behavior, learning, and development, and identify approaches that support their growth and development through instruction and early intervention. Finally, candidates critically evaluate policies that impact young children and their families. Visit the program [website](#) for program details.

Application

Applicants use Cal State Apply to file all application materials before the deadline. Deadlines and details about the Program Materials (e.g., statement of purpose prompt, recommendation prompts) may be found in the Application Process section of the [College of Education Graduate Studies Office website](#). Please contact the [College of Education Graduate Studies Office](#) if you have questions.

Submit official transcripts from the college or university from which you earned your bachelor's degree. This set of transcripts will be used to determine grade point average eligibility. Failure to submit transcripts in a timely manner will result in a delayed review of the application. After an initial review, select applicants are invited for an interview with program faculty.

Classified Admission

Successful applicants are admitted to the program with Classified admission status.

Advancement to Candidacy - Clear Admission

Students should advance to candidacy as early as possible. They should meet with the program coordinator to plan their program.

For Advancement to Candidacy (Clear Admission status), students must:

1. Resolve all incomplete grades.
2. Complete 6 units of program requirements.
3. Maintain a 3.0 grade point average.

Please contact the [College of Education Graduate Studies Office](#) if you have questions.

Requirements

Prerequisites

The following are required for admission to the program:

1. Baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university.
2. Minimum 3.00 overall grade point average in the last degree (not credential or certificate) earned from an accredited institution of higher education. Applicants whose overall GPA is less than 3.00 but meet the University minimum GPA requirement and who present compelling evidence of academic and professional potential either through recent academic performance and/or experiential background, may be considered for admission at the discretion of the program admission committee.
3. [EDP 301](#) or [HDEV 307](#) or [PSY 361](#).
4. [EDEL 482A](#) or one year of documented and approved teaching experience.
5. International applicants have additional university application requirements including meeting the English language proficiency requirement. Please visit The Center for International Education (CIE) [website](#) for more information.

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Research methods (3 units):

Take the following:

- [EDEC 519 - Teacher as Researcher](#) (3 units)

Core courses (27 units):

Take all of the following:

- [EDEC 520 - Early Childhood Curriculum and Assessment](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 521 - Historical and Contemporary Perspectives in Early Childhood](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 522 - Developing Family, School, and Community Partnerships](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 525 - Early Literacy Development, Instruction, and Assessment](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 526 - Advanced Study of Infant and Toddler Programs](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 527 - Early Childhood Mathematics and Integrated STEM](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 530 - Advocating for Early Intervention of Young Children and their Families](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 623 - Leadership, Advocacy, and Supervision in Early Childhood Education](#) (3 units)
- [EDEC 695 - Seminar in Early Childhood Education](#) (3 units)

One of the following chosen with program advisor consultation:

- Comprehensive Examination
- [EDEC 698 - Thesis Study in Early Childhood Education](#) (3 units)
(must take 6 total units of EDEC 698)

EFFECTIVE: Fall 2023

Academic Plan Code: EDELMA05PB

Career: Graduate

CIP: 13.1210

CSU Code: 08231

College: 50, College of Education

Department: Teacher Education

Delivery: Hybrid

Non-STEM