

MEd in Early Childhood Education

Admission Requirements

Applicants are considered on an individual basis. The following requirements for admissions represent recommended minimum levels of performance. Decisions are made on the strength of the overall evidence of academic and professional capacities and on available enrollment space. In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, applicants must meet the following program requirements:

- **Baccalaureate Field** No restrictions.
- **Grade Point Average** Recommended minimum of 2.75/4.00 for the final 60 semester (90 quarter) hours of undergraduate study and at least 3.00/4.00 for all postbaccalaureate/graduate course work.
- **Tests Required** See the [Illinois State Board of Education website](#) for the most current information concerning Educator Licensure Testing.
- **Minimum English Competency Test Score**
 - **TOEFL** 80, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Speaking 20, and Writing 21 (iBT Test). **Note:** Total score is higher than the sum of the subscores; 60, with subscores of Reading 19, Listening 17, Writing 21 (revised Paper-Delivered Test), **OR**,
 - **IELTS** 6.5, with subscores of 6.0 for all four subscores, **OR**,
 - **PTE-Academic** 54, with subscores of Reading 51, Listening 47, Speaking 53, and Writing 56.
- **Letters of Recommendation** Three letters addressing the applicant's academic qualifications, any experiences working with young children and their families, and ability to carry on advanced degree studies. Letters should be from current or former professors or supervisors.
- **Other Requirements** A 3–4 page personal statement addressing the applicant's relevant background and experience, interest in young children, and goals for the MEd program. Applicants may be asked to interview with program faculty.
- **Deadlines** The application deadlines for these concentrations are earlier than the Graduate College deadline; contact the College of Education for information on current deadlines.

Degree Requirements

In addition to the Graduate College minimum requirements, students must meet the following program requirements:

- **Minimum Semester Hours Required** 32–36 hours. Note that students seeking an Illinois Professional Educator License with endorsements in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education will complete an additional 12 hours of student teaching. Contact program advisor for more information.
- **Course Work**

| Code | Title | Hours |
|-------------------------|-------|-------|
| Required Courses | | |

Early Childhood Development (7–8 hours)

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| EPSY 426 | Development, Health and Wellness: Conception to age 8 |
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Select one of the following courses with the consent of a program advisor:

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| ED 422 | Advanced Developmental Psychology and Educational Processes |
| EPSY 420 | Advanced Social Development of Children in an Urban Context |
| EPSY 429 | Constructivist Approaches to Development: Piaget and Vygotsky |
| EPSY/SPED 466 | Language Development, Diversity, and Disabilities |
| SPED 506 | Characteristics and Assessment of Young Children with Disabilities |

Early Childhood Methods and Practice (6 hours)

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| EPSY 520 | Introduction to Curriculum and Practice in Early Childhood Education |
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Foundations of Education (3–4 hours)

Select one of the following courses with the consent of a program advisor:

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| EPSY 449 | Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education: Perspectives, Policies and History |
| SPED 461 | Political and Socio-Cultural Perspectives on Special Education |
| ED 403 | Policy Issues in the History of American Education |
| CI 481 | Foundation and Current Issues in Educating English Language Learners |

Education Electives (16–20 hours)

Students seeking licensure or credentialing have specific course requirements within this elective category. Students must have their courses approved by the program advisor.

Additional student teaching courses

The following courses are required for initial PEL with endorsements in ECE and ECSE:

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| EPSY 523 | Advanced Curriculum and Practice in Early Childhood Education |
| EPSY 521 | Student Teaching in Early Childhood Education |
| or EPSY 522 | Internship in Early Childhood |

- **Comprehensive Examination** None.
- **Thesis, Project, or Course-Work-Only Options** Course work only. No other options are available.

Interdepartmental Concentrations

Students earning a graduate degree in this department may complement their courses by enrolling in select concentrations after consulting with their graduate advisor. Interdepartmental concentrations available for this degree include:

- [Black Studies](#)
- [Gender and Women's Studies](#)