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 coursework.
- **Tests Required** See the Illinois State Board of Education website for the most current information concerning Educator Licensure Testing.
- **English Proficiency** Additional information on the English proficiency test requirement for international students can be found on the UIC Admissions website. Minimum test scores for this program are:

Exam	Score	Reading	Listening	Speaking	Writing
TOEFL iBT (exams taken on or after 1/21/2026)	4.5	4	4	4.5	4.5
TOEFL iBT (exams taken prior to 1/21/2026)	80	19	17	20	21
IELTS Academic	6.5	6.0	6.0	6.0	6.0
PTE Academic	54	51	47	53	56
Duolingo English Test	120	115	115	115	115

- **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.
- **Coursework**

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Early Childhood Development (7–8 hours)		
EPSY 426	Development, Health and Wellness: Conception to age 8	
Select one of the following courses with the consent of a program advisor:		
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)		
EPSY 520	Introduction to Curriculum and Practice in Early Childhood Education	
Foundations of Education (3–4 hours)		
Select one of the following courses with the consent of a program advisor:		
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:		
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 Coursework-Only Options** Coursework 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