

Master of Education in Early Childhood Education

The Department of Early Childhood and Reading offers an online graduate program enabling students to obtain a master's degree in Early Childhood Education. This graduate-level degree will prepare practicing and pre-service teachers to work with children birth through age 8 by aligning their work to best practices and research. The courses are designed for working teachers and professionals from any setting.

The Master's degree is offered online with a one-week summer residency on campus. The entire degree can be completed part-time in 5 semesters, or 18 months with summers. Courses focus on research—based curriculum design, technology use and integration, families and communities as well as literacy, math, science (STEM and inquiry) and assessment (formal and authentic). Students in the Early Childhood Master's program may also pursue Early Childhood certification (PreK-Grade 4) with a blend of online and on campus classes.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS and PROCEDURES

Individuals seeking admission as degree students in this program must comply with the general admission requirements for graduate students at Edinboro University and with the following specific admission requirements for this program:

1. Complete the online application.
2. Pay an application fee of \$30.
3. Provide an official transcript verifying an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
4. Verification of possession of a valid elementary education or early childhood teaching certificate, if applicable.
5. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or satisfactory scores on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Examination (GRE).

Visit the [Graduate School webpage](#) and click the "Apply" link on the left side of the screen. Create an account on Collegenet by clicking the "account" link on the Apply page. Collegenet is a self-managed application system. It will allow you to submit admission materials, check the status of your application, and view your decision letter using this account. If you have issues with your Collegenet account, consult the Collegenet help desk by submitting a Help Request Form or email help@collegenet.com.

CURRICULUM

30 semester hours of prescribed graduate credit is required as a partial requirement for the degree.

These required graduate credits should be earned as follows:

Required Courses (27 cr. hrs.)

ECED 700 Development of Young Learners
ECED 710 Issues and Trends in Early Literacy Development
ECED 715 Curriculums in Early Childhood Education
ECED 720 Math and Science for Young Children **
ECED 730 Observation, Documentation, and Assessment in Early Childhood **
ECED 740 Family, School and Community: Partnerships in Early Childhood Education
ECED 750 Play, Research and Advocacy
EDUC 788 Research in Education
SPED 710 Seminar in Exceptionalities

Elective Choice (3 cr. hrs.)

Graduate level ECED courses not yet taken will meet this requirement as well as other graduate level READ and SPED courses as approved by the Graduate Program Head.

**Completed during summer residency

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

Individuals must comply with the degree requirements for the Master's Degrees listed under *Academic Standards and Policies* in this catalogue. In addition to these requirements, the individual must meet the following requirements:

Research Requirements. Candidates for the Master of Education Degree in Early Childhood must conduct an independent study related to their major field. This action research project is conducted while enrolled in ECED 750 Play, Research and Advocacy.

TEACHER CERTIFICATION

Students holding Elementary Education Certification who seek Early Childhood Certification must complete two additional courses:

- ECED 695 Graduate Field Experience in Early Childhood Education
- ECED 766 Theory and Practice in Early Childhood

Students not holding Elementary Education Certification who seek Early Childhood Certification must complete additional coursework in Early Childhood Education. A sample Plan of Study may be found [here](#).

Additional Requirements and Procedures for Certification. In addition to successful completion of the prescribed coursework, it is the student's responsibility to:

1. Meet the cut off score for the PRAXIS/PECT to meet certification requirements, and
2. Submit the appropriate forms needed to obtain PA certification to the Office of the Dean of Education as soon as certification requirements have been completed.

Candidates seeking teacher certification from a state other than Pennsylvania should follow the procedures required by that specific state. It is the student's responsibility to investigate certification requirements from states other than Pennsylvania.

Only international students who hold immigration status and have submitted a form of intent to become a citizen are eligible to apply for PDE teacher certification.

For More Information: If you have questions about the application process, please contact Edinboro University's School of Graduate Studies at gradstudies@edinboro.edu or at (814)732-2856. For questions specific to the MEd in Early Childhood Education, please contact **Dr. Karen Lindeman** at (814) 732-1550 or klindeman@edinboro.edu.

Office for Accessibility Services: For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with a disability, contact the Office for Accessibility Services (OAS), at (814) 732-2462. For additional information, visit the OAS web page.

Graduate Assistantships: Graduate Assistantships are available for campus based students only. They are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission applications must be completed by February 15th to be considered for an assistantship. Assistantships provide a partial waiver of tuition and a stipend, as well as an opportunity to gain experience in research and professional activities. Additional information about assistantships is available through the School of Graduate Studies and Research, (814) 732-2856.

Financial Aid Considerations: An academic year consists of fall, spring, and summer. Graduate students taking graduate level courses may receive up to \$20,500 in the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. Students will want to be mindful of their financial aid to allow for funding for 12 months if planning on enrolling during the summer term. Students will have an option to apply for Graduate Plus loan or private loans if other funding has been exhausted. For more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (888) 611-2680 or finaid@edinboro.edu.

Employer Reimbursement: Edinboro University accepts employer benefit plans through arrangements with the Student Accounts Office by completing the employer tuition reimbursement agreement.

Veterans' Education Benefits: Information and printable forms regarding Veterans' Education Benefits and the Montgomery GI Bill are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, <http://www.gibill.va.gov>.

Edinboro University of Pennsylvania is an equal opportunity education institution and employer and will not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, sex, and disability in its activities, programs or employment practices as required by Title VI, Title VII, Title IX, Section 504, and the ADA. For information regarding civil rights or grievance procedures, contact the Office of Human Resources and Faculty Relations, (814) 732-2703 or the Office of Social Equity (814) 732-2167, Reeder Hall, 219 Meadville Street, Edinboro, PA 16444.