Program Overview

The Master of Education in Curriculum and Instruction: Early Childhood Education concentration prepares individuals to meet the educational, social and emotional needs of children from birth through 8 years old.

Through online coursework, applied activities, and in-person clinical experiences, the program equips students with specialized skills and advanced knowledge in early childhood pedagogy, community collaboration, technology, administration, policy analysis, and advocacy.

The master’s degree is appropriate for students interested in learning about early childhood education research and working with infants and children in grades K-3. This track may be of interest to students who already have a teaching certificate and are interested in furthering their knowledge and skills or pursuing doctoral studies in the future.

Another option is the master’s degree with an Early Childhood Education endorsement (birth through age 8 or through grade 3), which familiarizes students with the most current trends and issues in the field. This track may be of interest to students with an elementary or special education teaching certificate who want to serve children birth through kindergarten.

A third option is the Masters and Arizona Certification in Early Childhood Education program, which provides students with the coursework and practical experiences necessary to become licensed to teach children birth through grade 3 in the public schools. The program provides participants an institutional recommendation for an Arizona Early Childhood Education (birth through age 8 or through grade 3) certification and the Master of Education degree.

All courses are online, but clinical experiences are completed in person.

Non-Arizona residents, please refer to the ASU Online State Authorization Information page for additional information.

Contact Information

Office of Student Services – Graduate Programs
For admissions information, please contact graduate-inquiry@asu.edu. 
Current students, please contact Megan Gamarra, Academic Success Specialist, at Megan.Gamarra@asu.edu.

Quick Facts

Campus Location: Online
Number of Credits: Master’s only – 30 Credit Hours; Master’s with Endorsement – 36 Credit Hours; Master’s with Certification – 45 Credit Hours
Start Terms: Fall Session A and B, Spring Session A and B, Summer Session A (see Academic Calendar for Session dates)
Time to Completion: 5 – 6 Semesters (Fall, Spring, Summer), depending on program option
Application Deadlines: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
Application Requirements & How to Apply

Graduate Admissions Application Requirements

- Earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution in the U.S. or the equivalent of a U.S. bachelor’s degree from an international institution that is officially recognized by that country
- Must have maintained a “B” (3.00 on a 4.00 scale) grade point average (GPA) in the last 60 semester hours or 90 quarter hours of undergraduate coursework
- Proof of English proficiency – International students only
  - If you are from a country whose native language is not English (regardless of where you may now reside), you must provide proof of English proficiency. For more information including additional requirements for international students, please visit the ASU Graduate Admissions website.
  - Applicants to Master’s and Arizona certification (MAC) program:
    - TOEFL score of 90+ (Internet Based Test) with scores on the Speaking and Writing portions be in the high “Fair” – “Good” range (22-30)
    - IELTS overall band score of at least 6.5 with Speaking and Writing portions needing to be at least 6.5 (6 = Competent User, 7 = Good User)
  - Applicants to Non-Certification Masters, Graduate Certificates, and Doctoral Programs:
    - Must meet the English Proficiency score established by ASU Graduate Education

Items Needed to Apply to the Program

- Items that will be uploaded into the online application:
  - **Personal Statement:** Please describe the personal and professional goals that motivate you to apply for the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education. Explain what has led you to this career path, and how this program will help you excel as an Early Childhood teacher in the classroom. The admissions committee pays particular attention to the quality of writing and ideas expressed in the personal statement. Statements should be approximately 500 words (2 pages, double spaced). The statement should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
  - **3 professional recommenders** (names, emails, and institution/company) who will submit electronic letters of recommendation. Recommendations should come from individuals who have worked with you in professional or academic capacities, and who can attest to your aptitude for the teaching profession and your ability to succeed at graduate-level coursework.
  - **Resume** that includes relevant personal, professional, educational, and community activities (one – two pages). The resume should be prepared in an MS Word (.doc), Rich Text (.rtf), Portable Document Format (.pdf), or Text (.txt) file format.
  - **Copy of the IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card** (front & back) or Arizona DPS fingerprint card application if you do not have the card at the time of application. Please visit the DPS site for information on applying for and receiving your IVP fingerprint clearance card: http://www.azdps.gov/Services/Fingerprint/

- Items that need to be mailed to Graduate Admissions Services:
  - **Official transcripts** from every college and university from which you have earned a Bachelor’s degree or higher
  - **Proof of English proficiency** – International students only

Complete and submit the Graduate Admission online application

- Review the application deadlines prior to applying: http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines
- Start the online application at this website: www.asu.edu/gradapp
- Select the degree: Early Childhood Education – Certification/Endorsement (MEd)
- Select the appropriate term for Planned Semester and Year of Enrollment
- For Location, select ASU Online
- Upload required items listed above
MEd in Curriculum and Instruction (Early Childhood Education)

- Submit the application and pay the appropriate application fee
- Send the remaining items to Graduate Admissions

Requirements & Program of Study

Certification Program

**Master's Degree Requirements**

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECD 503</td>
<td>Introduction to Research &amp; Evaluation in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 505</td>
<td>Foundations of Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 520</td>
<td>Child Guidance and Management: Child, Family, Community, &amp; Culture</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 525</td>
<td>Emergent Literacy</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 526</td>
<td>Learning and Instruction Integrated Literacy: K-3</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 527</td>
<td>Mathematics in Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 541</td>
<td>Assessment of Young Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 549</td>
<td>Foundations of Diversity, Human Development, &amp; the Young Child</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 565</td>
<td>Appropriate Instruction Methodologies for Young Children</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 593</td>
<td>Applied Project</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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Total Credits Required for M.Ed. 30

**Additional Courses for Endorsement**

Student will complete Master's degree requirements in addition to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECD 570</td>
<td>Pre-K Internship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 571</td>
<td>Pre-K Student Teaching</td>
<td>4</td>
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</table>

Total additional credits for Endorsement 6

**Additional Courses for Certification**

Student will complete Master's and endorsement degree requirements in addition to the following:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Course</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>ECD 578</td>
<td>Student Teaching in Early Childhood (K-3)</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ECD 580</td>
<td>K-3 Internship</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ELL 515</td>
<td>Structured English Immersion (SEI) Methods</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Total additional credits for Certification 9

*Students seeking the Early Childhood Endorsement must already have a valid Elementary or Special Education Teaching Certificate with the Arizona Department of Education and want to add on the Endorsement to their certificate.

Note: Students seeking the Early Childhood Endorsement who did not student teach in a K-3 setting or do not have 1 year of verified full-time teaching experience in a K-3 setting will also need to complete additional internships and/or student teaching requirements.

**The Early Childhood Certification program is for students who do not have any certification through the Arizona Department of Education and would like to obtain certification and their Master's degree.

Curriculum and tuition for all programs subject to change based on Arizona Board of Regents and Arizona Department of Education updates.

To review course descriptions please visit the ASU Catalog: [http://asu.edu/catalog](http://asu.edu/catalog).
Culminating Experience
The culminating experience for the Master’s degree is an Applied Project (ECD 593).

Additional Resources
- Application Deadlines: [http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines](http://education.asu.edu/application-deadlines)
- How to Apply: [http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply](http://education.asu.edu/graduate-programs-how-to-apply)
- Faculty: [http://education.asu.edu/faculty](http://education.asu.edu/faculty)
- ASU Graduate Education Policies: [https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures](https://graduate.asu.edu/policies-procedures)

Frequently Asked Questions

**What do the Field Experience hours look like?**
Students who pursue the M.Ed. in C&I Early Childhood Education with Certification will complete two 2-credit internships (one with grades Pre-K and one with grades K-3), as well as two 4-credit student teaching courses (one with grades Pre-K and one with grades K-3). During the semester-long internships, students will spend one full day per week in a classroom. During the student teaching courses, students will work full-time for eight weeks in a Preschool classroom, then full-time for eight weeks in an Elementary (K-3) classroom. During both student teaching courses, students will be expected to follow their mentor teacher’s contracted hours. This is typically a full-time work schedule, and students are not able to work during these times.

Students who pursue the M.Ed. in C&I Early Childhood Education with an Arizona Endorsement will typically complete one 2-credit hour internship (in grades Pre-K), as well as one 4-credit student teaching course (also in Pre-K) during the summer months. These are combined over an 8-week session “C.” Students will first complete 75 hours of internship (ECD 570) during the first 3 weeks of the session, 25 hours per week. Over the following 5 weeks, students will complete their Pre-K student teaching (ECD 571), and are expected to follow their mentor teacher’s full-time contracted hours. This is typically a full-time work schedule, and students are not able to work during these times. This is contingent upon the student already successfully waiving the k-3 practicum required by the Arizona Department of Education.

**What requirements do I need to fulfill to begin field experience hours?**
To begin field experience hours (such as internships or student teaching), students will work with our clinical experiences liaison to locate a placement, get a list of the state, district and school requirements, and submit those to the school for verification.

Prior to the first day of the semester in which a student is registered for a clinical experience (ECD 570, 571, 578 or 580), students must submit a signed form verifying that all required clearance/verification has been submitted to their placement site. This may include an IVP Fingerprint Clearance Card and other district, school, or state-specific requirements. If a student’s site changes from one placement to another, he or she will need to review the list and work with their new placement to obtain any necessary clearance prior to the first day of that semester.

**Can I waive student teaching and how do I do that?**
Our program offers Pre K and K-3 internships and student teaching to meet Early Childhood requirements for certification or the endorsement. Please review the Program of Study provided above for list of internship and student teaching courses.

In order to waive these requirements from your program, and verify eligibility for a teaching certificate or endorsement, it is our recommendation that you contact Arizona Department of Education (ADE) directly.
for verification. Certification students who waive this requirement are not eligible for an Institutional Recommendation, but may obtain certification from the Arizona Department of Education through a transcript evaluation.

To assist you with this process, you will find helpful links listed above under Additional Resources for “ADE Certification Requirements.” If you choose not to complete verification through ADE, nor complete internships or student teaching, you may not be eligible for the certification or endorsement.

**Do I have to take the classes in any particular order?**
The course sequence is based on the session in which you start the program. Upon admission you will receive a list of the courses and the order in which you will take them to meet the program requirements. Some program courses are only offered in the summer; therefore, the course sequence will require summer courses. If you take courses out of sequence, your time to degree completion or financial aid eligibility may be affected as not all courses are offered every session.

**When can I begin this program?**
Each academic semester at ASU (Fall, Spring, Summer) has three sessions: Session A, Session B, and Session C. Session A and Session B are each 7.5 weeks, and Session C is 15 weeks. Students in the Early Childhood Education program can begin the program at the start of either Session A (during Fall, Spring, or Summer) or at the start of Session B (during Fall or Spring). To be eligible for financial aid, a student must enroll in at least 5 credits in a given semester. Students starting an online program in Session B of any academic semester will take one 3-credit program-related course during the semester. The following tuition options are available for students starting the program in Session B of any semester:

Option 1: Pay tuition and fees for one 3-credit program-related course in Session B and become financial aid eligible in Session A of the following semester, OR

Option 2: In addition to one 3-credit program-related course in Session B, register to take another ASU course (2 or more credits) that will not count toward your degree. We recommend that you register for TWC 598: Writing for Educators and apply for financial aid for both courses.

If you are accepted to start the program in Session B of Fall or Spring and decide to defer enrollment until the next semester for financial aid or other reasons, the university will assess a $30 fee. If you decide to defer prior to being accepted, we can defer your application to the next semester and the university will not assess a fee.

**How can I learn more about certification and endorsement requirements?**
Please visit the Arizona Department of Education (ADE) website for information on certification and endorsement requirements. The ADE website will also help you with other questions that relate to general information, first time applicants, FAQ’s, out of state requirements, comparable out of state exams, testing, and fees.

Prospective and current students are advised to contact their state’s Board/Department of Education for information about seeking licensure after earning their degree from Arizona State University, including but not limited to requirements related to coursework, supervised experience, or certification based on their state’s reciprocity process.

Non-Arizona students interested in applying for an endorsement or other qualification to an existing teacher certification should contact their state’s Board/Department of Education for information about using coursework from Arizona State University.

**Which Arizona Educator Proficiency Assessment (AEPA) exam do I need to take?**
Students should complete the Early Childhood Subject Knowledge (36) and the Early Childhood Professional Knowledge (93) to become certified. More information on Arizona Educator Exams can be found on the ADE website.