

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, MASTER OF EDUCATION

This program leads to the T-5 certification in Early Childhood Education and is designed to prepare master teachers to work with children in grades PreK-5. This program also provides knowledge and skills for teachers to serve in leadership roles in curriculum development, supervision and research in the field of Early Childhood Education.

The purpose of the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education is to promote leadership for PreK-5 populations. Candidates complete 36 hours of courses designed to augment resourceful and imaginative problem-solving skills for PreK-5 populations. All classes implement the College of Education's conceptual framework: Reflective transformative practitioner, culturally-responsive practitioner, technologically-competent practitioner. Candidates have to be admitted by the Graduate Admissions Office before being admitted into the program.

Objectives

The objectives of the Master's of Education program in Early Childhood Education is to provide teachers with the opportunities to:

1. Use teaching practices that align with current research
2. Expand their knowledge and skills in a chosen area of educational interest;
3. Present academically-challenging instructions to PreK-5 to students;
4. Integrate new materials and methods of teaching practices for diverse PreK-5 populations;
5. Encourage interest in conducting research;
6. Increase competencies in research techniques; and
7. Encourage relevant action research, which they can use to become more effective in their classrooms.

Comprehensive Examination

The purpose of the comprehensive examination is to assess the student's knowledge of learning experiences that have been introduced in the M.Ed. degree in Early Childhood Education program. The exam will address specific objectives from the middle grades curriculum and both content concentrations.

In partial fulfillment of the M.Ed., in Early Childhood Education, students are required to pass a comprehensive examination. This examination is administered the semester of expected graduation or upon completion of required coursework. A student is eligible to take the comprehensive examination only if their grade-point average is 3.0 or higher and no course grade is lower than "B" in Area C of the program. Students may not take the comprehensive examination more than once in an academic semester. A third failure on the comprehensive examination results in automatic termination from the degree program.

Admissions Requirements

Admission to the Early Childhood Education Program requires an undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education, or the equivalent, from an accredited college. In addition, the following is required

- a clear renewable state of GA teaching certificate in the discipline
- three letters of recommendations
- writing sample
- College of Education Disposition Statement

If students lack a sufficient background in Early Childhood Education, they may be required to take additional undergraduate courses before beginning the M.Ed. program in Early Childhood Education. Students are also governed by the general admission procedures and requirements for the graduate school and the M.Ed. degree program, and they may matriculate in the Early Childhood Education program under the same categories of admission.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

| Code | Title | Semester Hours |
|--|--|----------------|
| AREA A: Nature of the Learner and Behavior Problems (3 Hours) | | 3 |
| SPED 5501 | Exceptional Child | |
| SPED 5542 | Behavior Modification for Special Education Students | |
| EDUC 5550 | Foundation Principles in Education, Growth Development | |
| AREA B: Programs and Problems of the School (3 Hours) | | 3 |
| EDUC 5504 | History of Education | |
| EDUC 5540 | Curriculum Principles | |
| EDUC 5509 | Philosophy of Education | |
| AREA C: Teaching Field (18 Hours) | | |
| ECEC 5512 | Cultural Diversity In Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| ECEC 5525 | Mathematical Experiences for Young Children | 3 |
| ECEC 5527 | Science Experiences for Young Children | 3 |
| ECEC 5550 | Social Studies in Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| EDRG 5594 | Introduction to Theory & Pedagogy in Reading Education | 3 |
| ECEC 5509 | Theories, Design, and Program Development In Early Childhood Education | 3 |
| EDUC 5199 | Orientation to Adv Prof Educ ¹ | 0 |
| AREA D: Educational Research (Minimum 3 Hours) | | 3 |
| EDUC 5500 | Educational Statistics ² | |
| EDUC 5502 | Action/Classroom Research | |
| EDUC 5592 | Applied Research in Teacher Education | |
| AREA E: Teaching Field/Electives (minimum 9 Hours) | | 9 |
| EDUC 5500 | Educational Statistics | |
| EDUC 5000 | Professional Development for Accomplished Educators | |
| ECEC 5500 | Early Childhood Development | |
| ECEC 5518 | Issues in Early Childhood Education | |
| Total Semester Hours | | 36 |

¹ Required course

² Prerequisite for EDUC 5502