BIRTH-KINDERGARTEN INTERDISCIPLINARY STUDIES IN EDUCATION AND DEVELOPMENT, M.ED.

The synchronous online Master of Education (M.Ed.) program in Birth-Kinder garden Interdisciplinary Studies in Education and Development prepares students to assume leadership roles in diverse settings (both education and community-based) that develop and implement programming for young children with and without disabilities, ages birth to five, and their families. The degree consists of a minimum of 37 credit hours of graduate course work beyond the Bachelor’s degree. Additional academic work may need to be completed by students without foundational skills or content knowledge in early childhood. Prerequisite credits may not be applied toward the M.Ed. degree unless they are Birth-Kinder garden Initial Licensure program courses (see Birth-Kinder garden: Post-Baccalaureate Initial Licensure Certificate). Prerequisite requirements must be satisfied as early as possible in the program. The Birth-Kinder garden Graduate Program Committee approves any transfer credit.

Two concentrations are offered: one on Early Childhood Leadership & Advanced Teaching and another on Early Childhood Leadership & Program Administration.

The concentration in Early Childhood Leadership & Advanced Teaching is designed for students with a Standard Professional I or initial license seeking education in early childhood leadership and an advanced teaching license. Those with an initial license in another field of education must satisfy prerequisite requirements and complete eight (8) weeks of student teaching (which adds 6 credit hours to the program). Students are eligible for the “M” advanced license in BK upon successful completion of the program.

The concentration in Early Childhood Leadership & Program Administration equips teachers, directors/administrators, technical assistance providers, and other professionals working closely with early childhood educators to be leaders in the field. It includes advanced training in a variety of areas, including personnel development and support, financial management, early childhood systems and policy, leadership and mentoring, child and program assessment, and curriculum within the context of family-centered practices to work effectively with diverse children and families in inclusive settings.

For information regarding deadlines and requirements for admission, please see the Guide to Graduate Admissions.

Applicants must submit an application to The Graduate School, which includes: a professional statement, a current resume, official transcripts with a GPA of 3.0 or higher, and three letters of recommendation with at least one academic reference if possible. Applicants to the Early Childhood Leadership & Advanced Teaching concentration must also submit documentation of their initial teaching license. The GRE is not required. An interview and writing sample may be required.

Degree Program Requirements

Required: 37 credit hours

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SES 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Inclusive Birth-Kinder garden Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>SES 602</td>
<td>Inclusive Family-Centered Practices in Early Childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>SES 603</td>
<td>Screening/Assessment in Inclusive Early Childhood Services</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDF 636</td>
<td>Leadership and Mentoring in Educating Young Children</td>
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<tr>
<td>HDF 633</td>
<td>Advanced Curriculum in Early Childhood Education</td>
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Coursework Related to Research

- ERM 604 Methods of Educational Research
- HDF 650 Theory and Research in Early Childhood

Practicum

- SES 604 Internship in Inclusive Early Childhood

Professional Portfolio (Capstone Experience)
The final portfolio is the culminating experience. It includes two components:

1. A written document that includes a series of reflective essays and rationale for the use of documents.
2. An oral defense, discussing the content of the essays and rationale for the use of documents.

This portfolio will demonstrate the mastery of skills and knowledge in the program competency areas. It is submitted on TaskStream by the student and evaluated by a team of two faculty and one practicing professional. If the portfolio and presentation do not meet departmental standards, one revision is allowed. The final portfolio is required of all students graduating from the program.

Early Childhood Leadership and Advanced Teaching Concentration

In addition to the core courses, the Leadership and Advanced Concentration requires:

Coursework Related to Theory and Practice

- SES/HDF 606 Preschool-Kindergarten Learning in Inclusive Settings

Electives

Select 6 credits from the following:

- HDF 634 Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Policy
- HDF 653 Contemporary Research in Family Studies
- HDF 715 Infant Development
- HDF 720 Applied Theories and Principles of Parenting
- HDF 730 Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Child Development
- SES 605 Diversity and Inclusive Early Care and Education
- SES/HDF 607 Infant-Toddler Learning in Inclusive Settings
- SES 608 Seminar in Early Childhood Education
- SES 647 Collaboration and Leadership
- SES 662 Assistive Technology for Inclusive Education
Practicum

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<tr>
<td>SES 649C</td>
<td>Practicum in Special Education **</td>
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* To be selected from list or with approval of advisor.

** As applicable, if student’s initial licensure is in an area other than Birth-Kindergarten

** Early Childhood Leadership and Program Administration Concentration

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<tbody>
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<td>HDF 602</td>
<td>Special Topics in Human Development and Family Studies</td>
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In addition to the core courses, the Leadership and Program Administration Concentration requires:

** Coursework Related to Theory and Practice

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<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDF 634</td>
<td>Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Policy</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES 605</td>
<td>Diversity and Inclusive Early Care and Education</td>
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