

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

The synchronous online Master of Education (M.Ed.) program in Birth-Kindergarten 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-Kindergarten Initial Licensure program courses (see Birth-Kindergarten: Initial Licensure Certificate). Prerequisite requirements must be satisfied as early as possible in the program. The Birth-Kindergarten Graduate Program Committee approves any transfer credit.

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

The concentration in Early Childhood Leadership and Advanced Teaching Licensure 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 and 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 Licensure 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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
Core Courses Required for Both Concentrations		21
<i>Coursework Related to Theory and Practice</i>		15
SES 601	Introduction to Inclusive Birth-Kindergarten Services	
SES 602	Inclusive Family-Centered Practices in Early Childhood	
SES 603	Screening/Assessment in Inclusive Early Childhood Services	
HDF 633	Advanced Curriculum in Early Childhood Education	
HDF 636	Leadership and Mentoring in Educating Young Children	
<i>Coursework Related to Research</i>		6
ERM 604	Methods of Educational Research	
HDF 650	Theory and Research in Early Childhood	
Practicum		6
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
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 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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
In addition to the core courses, the Leadership and Advanced Teaching Concentration requires:		
Coursework Related to Theory and Practice		4
HDF/SES 606	Preschool-Kindergarten Learning in Inclusive Settings	
Electives		6
Select 6 credits from the following: *		
HDF 634	Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Policy	
HDF 653	Contemporary Research in Family Studies	
HDF 720	Applied Theories and Principles of Parenting	
HDF 730	Cross-Cultural Perspectives on Child Development	
HDF 715	Infant Development	
SES 605	Diversity and Inclusive Early Care and Education	
SES/HDF 607	Infant-Toddler Learning in Inclusive Settings	
SES 647	Collaboration and Leadership	
SES 662	Assistive Technology for Inclusive Education	
Practicum		6
SES 649C	Practicum in Special Education **	

* To be selected from the list or with approval of advisor. Other courses 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

Code	Title	Credit Hours
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In addition to the core courses, the Leadership and Program Administration Concentration requires:

Coursework Related to Theory and Practice		4
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HDF 602	Special Topics in Human Development and Family Studies
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Required Electives		6
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HDF 634	Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Policy
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SES 605	Diversity and Inclusive Early Care and Education
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