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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>SES 601</td>
<td>Introduction to Inclusive Birth-Kindergarten Services</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES 602</td>
<td>Inclusive Family-Centered Practices in Early Childhood</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES 603</td>
<td>Screening/Assessment in Inclusive Early Childhood Services</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 633</td>
<td>Advanced Curriculum in Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 636</td>
<td>Leadership and Mentoring in Educating Young Children</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>ERM 604</td>
<td>Methods of Educational Research</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>HDF 650</td>
<td>Theory and Research in Early Childhood</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>SES 604</td>
<td>Internship in Inclusive Early Childhood</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**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 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 Teaching Concentration requires:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDF/SES 606</td>
<td>Preschool-Kindergarten Learning in Inclusive Settings</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

**Electives**

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 |
- 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

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>HDF 602</td>
<td>Special Topics in Human Development and Family Studies</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

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

#### Coursework Related to Theory and Practice

- HDF 602 Special Topics in Human Development and Family Studies (4 credit hours)

#### Required Electives

- HDF 634 Contemporary Issues in Early Childhood Policy (6 credit hours)
- SES 605 Diversity and Inclusive Early Care and Education (6 credit hours)