

BS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION WITH PRIOR MONTESSORI CREDENTIAL

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) major provides individuals who earned a Montessori teacher education credential, accredited by the Montessori Accreditation Council for Teacher Education (MACTE), an opportunity to earn a bachelor's degree in ECE (ages 0-8) and receive credit for that credential. The program recognizes the teachers' MACTE credential by awarding 25 college-level credits.

As a part of the College for Adults (CFA), this program is designed for Montessori early childhood professionals *actively working in the field* from around the country and the globe. This fully online bachelor's degree program develops socially aware, critically-informed and innovative Montessori teachers who will continue to teach following Montessori philosophy combined with an awareness of and skills in anti-bias and anti-racist (ABAR) teaching strategies. By offering high-quality resources, utilizing multiple modes of virtual communication, and valuing real-life experiences, this program will engage students in deep and meaningful study.

The defining elements of the ECE program are:

- **Social Justice:** We provide teacher candidates with the knowledge and skills to impact societal change through early childhood education.
- **Personal Transformation:** We guide teacher candidates to greater understanding of themselves, children, and the world.
- **Innovative Pedagogy:** We equip teacher candidates with an individualized, anti-bias and anti-racist teaching approach influenced by Montessori philosophy that honors the whole child.
- **Holistic Teacher Education:** We recognize the demands of teaching and learning, and believe that to be an effective teacher the mind, body, and spirit must be nurtured and supported.
- **Community Engagement:** We commit to serving in, learning from, and collaborating with diverse communities who share a common vision of educational equity.

The ECE major encompasses integrated learning experiences that provide students with multiple opportunities to develop leadership knowledge and skills grounded in ethical and social justice principles informed by a global perspective. The program infuses all major course content with the components of ABAR.

Teachers graduating from this program will have the knowledge, confidence and commitment necessary to be societal change makers, and prepare children to effectively participate in a changing and dynamic world.

ECE is a discipline that involves intellectual, spiritual and moral commitment. A key element of our program is the inner spiritual transformation of individuals. ABAR curriculum combined with Montessori pedagogy brings a new perspective on child development and social order. This experience will alter students' understanding of themselves, children and the world. Such a transformation involves the knowledge and skills necessary to impact societal change. The educational leaders developed in this program will be expected to lead from a position of ethical responsibility.

To be eligible for consideration for admission to the early childhood major, students must provide evidence of completion of an Early Childhood or Infant and Toddler Montessori credential.

Our students will build their leadership skills through:

- engagement with current and respected resources
- group discussion
- self-reflection
- community collaboration
- rigorous and meaningful assignments

Our students will lead by:

- creating and delivering a high quality ABAR Montessori early childhood education
- designing and utilizing a variety of assessment tools
- analyzing assessment results to inform practice and support development
- integrating renewal opportunities for themselves, their colleagues, and their students
- embodying high quality practices in their teaching

This major is offered in the College for Adults only.

ADMISSION

To be considered for admission into the Early Childhood (ages 0-8) baccalaureate program an applicant must have:

1. Completed ECED 2040W Historical, Cultural and Social Foundations of Early Childhood Education with at least a "C" grade;
2. Completed ECE Program Application during ECED 2040W (includes entrance survey, essay, and resume);
3. Earned a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.0;
4. Earned a grade of C or better in ECED 1000 Introduction to Early Childhood Education or transferred in the equivalent;
5. Met with academic advisor from the early childhood education program and created a program of study;

The applicant must continue to earn a grade of "C" or above in all early childhood education courses and required supporting courses in order to progress in the early childhood education program.

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Curriculum

Code	Title	Credits
Prerequisite		
ECED 1000	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	4
ECED 2040W	Historical, Cultural and Social Foundations of Early Childhood Education	4
Total Credits		8
Required Education Courses		
ECED 2200	The Art of Early Childhood Classroom Guidance and Assessment	4

ECED 2300	Early Childhood Education Accreditation and Standards	1	ECED 3350	Understanding of Diverse Family Experiences and Student Exceptionalities in Early Childhood	4
ECED 2500	Technology in Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education	1	Fall Term		
ECED 3280	Infant and Toddler Methods and Materials	4	ECED 3280	Infant and Toddler Methods and Materials	4
ECED 3350	Understanding of Diverse Family Experiences and Student Exceptionalities in Early Childhood	4	ECED 3600	Teaching and Learning in the Lower Elementary Classroom	3
ECED 3560	Emergent Literacy in the Content Areas	2	Spring Term		
ECED 3600	Teaching and Learning in the Lower Elementary Classroom	3	ECED 3560	Emergent Literacy in the Content Areas	2
ECED 4840W	Bachelor Completer Capstone Project: A Critical Exploration of Early Childhood Education	2	ECED 4840	Bachelor Completer Capstone Project: A Critical Exploration of Early Childhood Education	2
Credits Awarded for Montessori Credential			Total Credits		
Total Credits		21	45		

Code	Title	Credits
Required Supporting Courses		
ECED 3340	Child in the Family	4
INDI 3400	Implementing Critical Literacy in Early Childhood Education	4
PSYC 1000	General Psychology	4
PSYC 2025/2020	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
Total Credits		16

Early childhood education majors fulfill the Writing Requirement for Majors by completing ECED 2040W Historical, Cultural and Social Foundations of Early Childhood Education . Students fulfill the Liberal Arts and Sciences Core Writing Requirement with three other writing-intensive courses (CORE 1000W The Reflective Woman, CORE 3990W Global Search for Justice, and one other writing-intensive course in another department).

Code	Title	Credits
Summer Term		
PSYC 1001	General Psychology with Lab	4
Fall Term		
ECED 1000	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	4
PSYC 2020/2025	Lifespan Developmental Psychology	4
Spring Term		
ECED 2040W	Historical, Cultural and Social Foundations of Early Childhood Education	4
ECED 2300	Early Childhood Education Accreditation and Standards	1
ECED 3340	Child in the Family	4
Fall Term		
ECED 2200	The Art of Early Childhood Classroom Guidance and Assessment	4
INDI 3400	Implementing Critical Literacy in Early Childhood Education	4
Spring Term		
ECED 2500	Technology in Teaching and Learning in Early Childhood Education	1

Faculty

Faculty

Molly Wheeler
Program Director, Assistant Professor

Sarah Hassebroek, EdS
Associate Professor

Sarah Streyle
Assistant Professor

Kristy Fehr, M.Ed