

M.Ed. – Early Childhood Education

The major in Early Childhood Education is aimed at accomplishing two primary goals:

- to develop knowledge and skills in curriculum (what to teach) and instruction (how to teach) in early childhood education; and
- to provide experience in educational research related to the education of the young child.

A comprehensive examination is required. For course descriptions and other information related to graduate studies visit our website at <http://blue.utb.edu/graduate>.

Testimonial:

The ECE program has helped me refine what I was doing in the classroom and has helped me vocalize what I do. It has given me the support for what I do in the classroom to develop a cooperative student oriented learning curriculum. In addition it has helped me explain to parents and administration that what my students are doing in the classroom is learning through play.

-Gerardo Hernandez,
Kindergarten Teacher Paredes Elementary

Admission Requirements

Evidence of academic achievement and potential for advanced study and research is required for graduate admission. Specific criteria for Unconditional Admission for Master's degree seeking students in Early Childhood Education are:

- Undergraduate GPA of 3.0
- GRE Verbal score of 450
- GRE Quantitative score of 450
- GRE Analytical score of 4.0
- Must have a valid EC-4 teacher certificate or its equivalent in a related area.

Applicants with an undergraduate GPA of at least 2.5 and/or GRE scores lower than those specified are also encouraged to apply.

Notification of decisions on graduate admission is made by the Office of Graduate Studies based on the admission criteria and recommendation of the academic department. Information related to application procedures and deadlines is available through the Office of Graduate Studies.



Advisors

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36-Hour Thesis/Non-thesis Program

Required Courses: 36 hours

Required Courses: 30 hours

EDCI	6300	Introduction to Research
EPSY	6304	Human Growth and Development
EDEC	6301	Major Theories in Early Childhood Education
EDEC	6302	Instructional Planning & Curriculum Development for the Early Childhood Classroom
EDEC	6303	First & Second Language Acquisition
EDEC	6304	Children's Literature
EDEC	6307	Emergent Literacy in Early Childhood Education
EDEC	6308	Graduate Internship in Early Childhood Education
EDEC	6310	Problems in Early Childhood Education
EDCI	6388	Socio-Cultural Foundations of Education

Electives: 6 hours

Six hours of courses in bilingual education or six hours of thesis. An elementary certified teacher can add an early childhood endorsement by completing 15 hours of specific courses within this program and one year of teaching in an early childhood classroom. Contact a Graduate Advisor for information. EDEC 6310 may be taken twice if the topic is different.



Careers

- Teacher
- Facilitator
- Child Care Program Administrator
- Curriculum Specialist or Writer
- Regional Academic Service Center staff or state agency
- Child Care Consultant

Course Descriptions

EDCI 6300 Introduction to Research

Introduction to research techniques; identification of problems, research designs and data gathering procedures. The planning and design of research proposals and projects are emphasized. The course must be completed or in progress before the student applies for the oral interview. Lec 3, Cr 3

EPSY 6304 Human Growth and Development

Advanced study in the application of life-span developmental theories to human behavior, learning and personality. Includes understanding the nature and needs of people at all developmental levels from prenatal through old age. Lec 3, Cr 3

EDEC 6301 Major Theories in Early Childhood Education

This course will include major historical and current theoretical perspectives of early childhood education. These foundations will be used to examine special education program models, family-focused initiatives and curriculum development. The application of theoretical principles will be examined through group and individual projects, classroom practice, research, and reflection papers. Lec 3, Cr 3

EDEC 6302 Instructional Planning and Curriculum Development for the Early Childhood Classroom

This course will include the major principles of curriculum planning, organization, scope, and sequence of a constructivist model. Special emphasis will be given to research on developmentally appropriate early childhood education environments and materials. A major portion of this course will include community-based experiences. *Prerequisite: EDEC 6301 Lec 3, Cr 3*

EDEC 6303 First and Second Language Acquisition

The focus of this course will be on early childhood bilingualism. The theoretical principles of native and second language acquisition will be explored. Students will have an opportunity to develop models of linguistically appropriate early childhood learning environments (pre-kindergarten through the primary grades) based on students' levels of proficiency in both the native and second languages. Strategies for native language development and for the teaching of the second language will also be explored. Lec 3, Cr 3

EDEC 6304 Children's Literature

This course will focus on children's multicultural literature. This course will cover various literacy genres and how to apply them to the classroom context. Students will evaluate children's literature through a variety of individual and group projects. Field-based activities may be included in the course. *Prerequisite: EDEC 6301 Lec 3, Cr 3*

EDEC 6307 Emergent Literacy in Early Childhood Education

This course will focus on a constructivist model of emergent literacy, how early childhood teachers integrate best practices, and family literacy learning in the classroom. This course will incorporate a framework of bilingual and multilingual learners. Students will engage in individual and group projects. *Prerequisite: EDEC 6301 Lec 3, Cr 3*

EDEC 6308 Graduate Internship in Early Childhood Education

This on-site internship will enable the student to focus on the holistic development of the young child through reflective practice, on-site analysis of practice, and observation of instruction and environment. Inquiry into professional practice will involve extensive reflection of standards, research, and current trends in early education. The course will be assigned a grade of pass or fail. *Prerequisite: EDEC 6302, 6303 & 6304 Lec 3, Cr 3*

EDEC 6310 Problems in Early Childhood Education

This topics course may address one of these four special topics: play research and practice; early childhood environments; parent, family and community involvement; and ECE in international settings. Topics rotate based on program needs. The students may participate in seminars, individual/collaborative projects, and field-based assignment. *Lec 3, Cr 3*

EDCI 6388 Socio-Cultural Foundations of Education

Identifying and analyzing of cultural forces which shape the direction of American education with emphasis on the purposes of education in their social

and cultural contexts. The multicultural factors in society which affect public schools and influence learning and acquiring skills important to survival and self-fulfillment will be emphasized. Particular emphasis will be placed upon understanding the culture of Mexican-American children. Lec 3, Cr 3