Master of Science in Early Childhood Education

Admission Requirements

The applicant must meet the School of Graduate Studies' current minimum general admission requirements as published in the graduate catalog.

1. An undergraduate degree in early childhood education, child development, elementary education, or a related field.
2. A cumulative Grade Point Average (GPA) of at least 2.75 for all undergraduate work or a GPA of at least 3.0 for the junior and senior years of undergraduate work (based on A = 4.00).
3. Satisfy the School of Graduate Studies' English Language Proficiency requirements as published in the graduate catalog.
4. Transcripts, recommendations for admission, and a personal statement, i.e., a response to three essay prompts, are part of the School of Graduate Studies and Early Childhood Education application procedure. The personal statement essay should be 2-3 pages in length and the prompts are:
   a. What have you already done professionally or personally of which you are proud? Please include a chronological history of all professional teaching and administration experience, as well as academic honors or achievements you earned.
   b. What are the characteristics, attitudes, values, and/or skills that you think will make you a good candidate for your professional role?
   c. Describe several personal and professional goals you would like to achieve in the next five years. Include in your description reasons why these goals are important to you.

Accelerated (B.S.Ed./M.S.) Admission Requirements

The Accelerated Bachelor's/Master's (ABM) 4+1 program allows exceptional undergraduate students at UND an opportunity to complete the requirements for both the B.S.Ed. in Early Childhood Education and the M.S. in Early Childhood Education degrees at an accelerated pace. All requirements for both degrees must be met, and these students may count up to 12 graduate-level courses toward the requirements for both their bachelor's and master's degree requirements. ABM students must obtain their master's degree within 12 months of completing the bachelor's degree.

- Students may apply to this program upon completion of 60 credits toward the bachelor's degree or with an Associates degree.
- Students must have an overall G.P.A. of 3.00 at the time of admission.
- Admission to Teacher Education Requires: Praxis Core Pass score; Live Text purchase; Introductory Letter; Level One Disposition

Degree Requirements

The M.S. degree in Early Childhood Education is available in two options: non-thesis option and the thesis option. The program of study is developed together with the student's advisor (non-thesis option, 32 credits) or with a student's thesis committee (thesis option, 30 credits).

Non-Thesis Option

1. Thirty-two credits including credits required for the major.
2. A minimum of two credits of T&L 997 Independent Study, or T&L 995 Scholarly Project.
3. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
4. All credits must be approved graduate level courses.
5. The program may include just the major, the major and the minor, or the major and a cognate area. The major must include 20 credits from the major department and the minor or cognate must include nine credits.
6. Completion of a two-credit practicum (60 hours) in an early childhood setting.
7. Preparation of a written independent study or scholarly project approved by the faculty adviser.

Thesis Option

1. A minimum of 30 semester credits in a major field, including the credits granted for the thesis and the research leading to a 4-6-credit T&L 998 Thesis.
2. A maximum of one-fourth of the credit hours required for the degree may be transferred from another institution.
3. All credits must be approved graduate level courses.
4. The program may include just the major, the major and a minor, or the major and a cognate area. The major must include 20 credits from the major department and a minor or cognate must include nine credits.
5. Preparation and successful defense of a thesis.

This program of graduate study can be completed in 18 months going full-time or 24 months going part-time (two courses per semester). Courses are offered on campus, online and a combination of the two.

Required Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Major		
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education	3
T&L 526	Play in Development and Early Childhood Education	3
T&L 529	Language Development Cognition in Children	3
T&L 530	Foundations of Reading Instruction	3
T&L 553	Collaborative Relationships: Home, School and Community	3
T&L 580	Practicum in Schools	3
T&L 995	Scholarly Project	2-6
or T&L 997	Independent Study	
or T&L 998	Thesis	
Scholarly Tools		
EFR 509	Introduction to Applied Educational Research	3
T&L 511	Assessment in ECE	3
General ECE Specialization		
T&L 517	Social Emotional Learning Guidance	3
T&L 527	Curricular Foundations in Early Childhood Education	3
Indigenous Teacher Education Specialization		
T&L 578	Curriculum and Pedagogy in Indigenous Education	3
T&L 593	Independent Projects (Culture, Land, & Practice)	1-4
OLEE 562	Advance Study in Place-Based Environmental Education	3
Total Credits		**32-35**

Students are required to take T&L 580 Practicum in Schools. This practicum requires 60 hours in an early childhood setting, which could be the candidate's work setting if it meets required accreditation standards.

Accelerated (B.S.Ed/M.S.) Degree Requirements:

Students seeking the M.S. in Early Childhood degree through the Accelerated program at the University of North Dakota must satisfy all the requirements for both the B.S. Ed and M.S degree.

- A maximum of 12 credits may be double counted toward each of the two degrees.
- Students have the option of choosing a specialization in general Early Childhood Education or Early Childhood with a specialization in Indigenous Teacher Education (ITE).

Transferred credits or credits fulfilled with Associates Degree in Early Childhood or Education include:

Code	Title	Credits
T&L 250	Introduction to Education	3
T&L 251	Understanding Individuals with Different Abilities	3
T&L 252	Child Development	3
T&L 310	Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
T&L 320	Infant and Toddler	3

Courses

Code	Title	Credits
Bachelor's courses for licensure:		
T&L 322	Administration and Leadership in Early Childhood Education	3
T&L 333	Methods and Materials: Pre-Kindergarten	3
T&L 335	Foundations of Reading	3
T&L 336	Social and Emotional Development and Guidance of Children	3
T&L 339	Educational Technology	3
T&L 405	Data Literacy for Teachers	1
T&L 453	Methods and Materials: Kindergarten	2
T&L 411	Primary Reading and Language Arts	2
T&L 443	Mathematics for Primary Grades	2
T&L 456	Early Childhood Ed Seminar	1
T&L 470	Science Methods in Elementary Schools (TEAM)	3
T&L 430	Social Studies Methods in Elementary Schools (TEAM)	3
T&L 487	Student Teaching	4-16
T&L 486	Field Experience	1-4
T&L 319	Integrating Diverse Needs in Educational Settings	3
T&L 316	Behavioral Assessment and Tiered Supports in Education	3
T&L 423	Assessment and Individualized Planning in Special Education	3
T&L 413	Assessing and Correcting Reading Difficulties	2
T&L 444	Assessing and Correcting Mathematics Difficulties	2
T&L 489	Senior Capstone: Responsive Teaching	3
Special Education Minor courses- included in degree		
T&L 251	Understanding Individuals with Different Abilities	3
T&L 316	Behavioral Assessment and Tiered Supports in Education	3
T&L 319	Integrating Diverse Needs in Educational Settings	3
T&L 413	Assessing and Correcting Reading Difficulties	2
T&L 423	Assessment and Individualized Planning in Special Education	3
T&L 444	Assessing and Correcting Mathematics Difficulties	2
T&L 486	Field Experience	1-4
SPED 525	Legal/Ethical Aspects in Special Education	3
Indigenous Teacher education students are also required to take:		
IS 251	Lakota Languages II	3
IS 252	Lakota Languages III	3
T&L 400	Methods and Materials (Indigenous Language Methods Birth-grade 3)	3
ECE Master's level courses (12 credits double counted from BS with asterisk)		
SPED 510	Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education (*)	3
T&L 511	Assessment in ECE (*) (covers content from 311)	3
T&L 526	Play in Development and Early Childhood Education	3
T&L 529	Language Development Cognition in Children (*)	3
T&L 553	Collaborative Relationships: Home, School and Community (*)	3
T&L 995	Scholarly Project	2
T&L 580	Practicum in Schools	3
EFR 509	Introduction to Applied Educational Research	3
General Early Childhood Education Specialization		
T&L 517	Social Emotional Learning Guidance	3
T&L 527	Curricular Foundations in Early Childhood Education (Not required for ITE Specialization)	3
Indigenous Teacher Education Specialization		
T&L 578	Curriculum and Pedagogy in Indigenous Education (Course is in Courseleaf process)	3
T&L 593	Independent Projects (Will be transcripted to say Culture, Land, & Practice)	3
OLEE 562	Advance Study in Place-Based Environmental Education (Course is in Courseleaf process)	3