

Name

Address Street City State Zip Code

Primary Phone E-mail Address

Goals and Focus of the Program:

The Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Special Education is designed for certified teachers who want to expand their expertise in both early childhood and special education. This unique dual-focus program equips educators to support the developmental and learning needs of young children—from Pre-K through Grade 3, including those with disabilities and diverse learning profiles. Aligned with Connecticut Cross-Endorsement Regulations, the program prepares educators for the Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary N–3 and Special Education N–K (#113 endorsement). Coursework integrates child development, inclusive curriculum design, emergent literacy, assessment, and family engagement to prepare professionals to lead classrooms that are both nurturing and inclusive.

Program Design:

Built for working educators, this fully online program combines the flexibility of asynchronous learning with the richness of live weekly online sessions. The program follows a cohort model for real-time collaboration and peer support. Courses are offered in eight-week blocks, one at a time and live class sessions meet one evening per week from 4:45 PM – 8:45 PM. This 30-credit hour program has an accelerated timeline which can be completed in approximately 18-months. Practicum placements are finalized annually, and applications for practicums are due by February 1st.

Prerequisites:

To apply, students must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution (minimum GPA 2.5), have ongoing access to a classroom and students for field-based learning, and be committed to advancing inclusive, developmentally appropriate instruction for all young learners. Applicants seeking cross-endorsement must possess a valid Connecticut teaching license. *The program also welcomes administrators and teachers in early childhood and preschool settings, including those in non-public school environments; however, they are not eligible for cross-endorsement or state licensure through this program.*

Degree Requirements and Career Outcome:

To earn the Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Special Education, students must successfully complete all required coursework, and a capstone project embedded within the final independent study course along with fulfilling practicum requirements in Pre-K and Kindergarten settings. Upon completion students who possess a valid Connecticut teaching licensure will be eligible to apply for cross-endorsement under Connecticut's Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary N–3 and Special Education N–K (#113) endorsement. **Please note: This program does not lead to initial teacher certification.** Individuals pursuing the #113 endorsement must also pass the Pearson Early Childhood Test and the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test.

| Course | Course Title | Start Week | End Week | Credits |
|-------------------------------------|--|-----------------|---------------------------|-----------|
| ECSE 530 | Parents, Families, and Communication | Aug. 24, 2026 | Oct. 12, 2026 | 3 |
| ECSE 510 | Growth and Development in Early Childhood | Oct. 19, 2026 | Dec. 7, 2026 | 3 |
| ECSE 540 | Assessment: Pre-K to Grade 3 | Jan. 4, 2027 | Feb. 22, 2027 | 3 |
| ECSE 520 | Language Development and Emergent Literacy | Mar. 1, 2027 | Apr. 26, 2027 | 3 |
| ECSE 576 | Primary Curriculum | May 3, 2027 | Jun. 21, 2027 | 3 |
| ECSE 580 | Pre-K/K Practicum | Jun. 28, 2027** | Aug. 9, 2027** | 6 |
| ECSE 587 | Pre-K to Kindergarten Curriculum | Aug. 30, 2027 | Oct. 18, 2027 | 3 |
| SPEC 535 | Laws and Special Education | Oct. 25, 2027 | Dec. 13, 2027 | 3 |
| ECSE 595 | Independent Study* | Jan. 10, 2028 | Feb. 28, 2028 | 3 |
| *Master's Capstone Project Included | | | Total Credit Hours | 30 |

PLAN OF STUDY AGREEMENT: (Initial each line, then sign and date)

- I have read and understand all information in the Student Information Packet, including important information regarding admissions, transferring credits, refunds, enrollment, and tuition and fees.
- I understand that this program will be delivered in a fully online format through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.
- I understand the Online Masters for Teachers cohort requires all students to complete their coursework with grades of C or better.
- I understand that I can only re-take two courses, one time each.
- I understand that I am expected to submit a course evaluation at the conclusion of each course.
- I have read and understand this Plan of Study and agree to this Plan of Study Agreement.

Student Signature **Date**

Program Director Signature **Date**

The courses for this program may be offered in a different order. This list should not be considered the finalized course sequence.
****Dates listed are tentative until practicum placements are finalized. *** Check with Financial Aid regarding funding for summer practicums.**