

Plan of Study: Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Special Education

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 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. 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 two years.

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. The program welcomes administrators and teachers in early childhood and preschool settings, including those in non-public school environments.

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.

Please note: This program does not lead to initial teacher certification.

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 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
	500 Level Special Education Course	Mar. 6, 2028	May 1, 2028	3
	500 Level Special Education Course	May 8, 2028	Jun. 26, 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.