EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, MA

This program is designed for students who wish to earn an Illinois teaching license to work with children from birth through grade two. The requirements for the Illinois early childhood teaching license and the Early Childhood Special Education Approval are integrated with the program. The program is ideal for students who do not have an undergraduate major in education, but who aspire to transform schools and classrooms in pursuit of social justice.

Admission

Admission to the program requires a BA degree in any academic area with a grade point average of 2.7 on a 4.0 scale, at least 120 credit hours of undergraduate courses from an accredited college or university and professional dispositions that have been demonstrated through an interview. A passing score on the Test of Academic Proficiency or an ACT or SAT scores that meet the state's criterion also is required for continued enrollment in the program.

Requirements

To be awarded the MA in early childhood education, students must successfully complete a 45 credit hour program of study, and all requirements for the teaching license, including an approved student teaching experience having two placements, a minimum of 240 clock hours of pre-student teaching field and service learning experiences, all general education requirements, and any additional course work or tests needed to satisfy accreditation, State of Illinois, and/or Roosevelt University requirements. All graduate students must maintain a 3.0 GPA in their graduate courses, and no grade below C is acceptable for licensure or the MA degree.

At the time of admission, an advisor reviews transcripts and evaluates all course work completed at other colleges or universities. Advising plans are developed and any deficiencies related to licensure requirements are noted. If additional course work is needed, the student’s advisor will indicate the course work needed on an advising plan. Students must confer with their assigned advisors before enrolling in the program and during each advising period to ensure that all requirements are being successfully completed.

Field and Clinical Experiences

Pedagogical and real-world training is at the center of the MA degree coursework. Consequently, all graduate students are required to enroll in one credit hour “Individualized Coaching and Field Experiences” courses in each of three semesters prior to student teaching.

In their Individualized Coaching courses, students will complete the field experiences needed to develop professional knowledge, skills and dispositions in alignment with Roosevelt’s social justice mission. As students progress from one Individualized Coaching course to another, they will take on tasks and responsibilities that are increasingly complex and challenging. These experiences will prepare students for success in the student teaching experiences that culminate the program and lead to the awarding of endorsements on the Professional Educator License.

Placement in two student teaching sites is planned with consideration of professional standards and partnership schools and agencies. These primary and pre-primary placements are open only to students who have successfully completed the appropriate general education, and professional education courses, the required Illinois TAP or substituted the ACT or SAT and early childhood content tests, and other College of Education and admission to student teaching requirements. Placements in sites with diverse student populations are required. Students must make formal application two semesters prior to the semester in which they plan to do their student teaching. Applicants are expected to be in good physical health and academic standing, and must provide evidence of competency with regard to professional dispositions, including the passage of a criminal background check. Students should consult regularly with their advisor about the specific requirements for licensure and student teaching in Illinois.

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<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
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<td>EDUC 421</td>
<td>INTEGRATED, HEALTH, ARTS, AND PE CURRICULUM</td>
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<td>MATHEMATICS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION</td>
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<td>INFANT AND TODDLER CURRICULUM &amp; ASSESSMENT: TEACHING &amp; LEARNING</td>
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<td>ECHD 482</td>
<td>EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION METHODS</td>
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Total Credit Hours 48

1 Required to earn licensure and complete the MA
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