

<p>Master of Arts Degree</p> <p>Early Childhood Education Emphasis</p>
<p>Program Advisor</p> <p>Johanna Filp-Hanke, Ph.D.</p>

Graduate Studies Handbook

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The Early Childhood Education Concentration is designed to prepare teachers to work in public school and community-based programs that serve children from infancy through third grade (ages birth to age eight), and to take leadership roles in the field of early childhood education. Required coursework focuses on working with diverse families and young children and advanced study of cognitive, language, social, emotional, and moral development. Improvement of classroom curriculum and assessment from infancy through the primary grades is another emphasis of the program. Candidates need not possess a teaching credential; they may prepare for leadership and advocacy positions in a variety of settings. However, a basic course in child development and at least one year of experience working with children in educational settings are prerequisites to admission to the program. Details are available from the Early Childhood Education Program Advisor.

Why should I get a Master of Arts degree in Early Childhood Education?

The M.A. in Early Childhood Education will help you to expand your understanding of the characteristics of learning and development of children ages 0 to 8, and your expertise in teaching young children and working with their families. With a growing emphasis at federal and state levels on the importance of high quality education during the preschool and primary years, leaders in early childhood education are sought by schools and agencies throughout California.

Graduate credits may count as professional development units for salary advancement in your school district and for credential renewal.

The M.A. in Early Childhood Education also qualifies teachers for advanced levels of the the California Child Development Permit.

What is special about studying Early Childhood Education at Sonoma State University?

The Master of Arts program at Sonoma State University emphasize the importance of understanding the links between child development and the practice of teaching and care giving in classrooms for young children from infancy through grade three. This developmental perspective is explored through a variety of cultural and theoretical "lenses" as candidates ground their ideas from readings and discussion in their day to day work with young children. The importance of continuity of experience from home to school and across levels of education are emphasized in coursework and individualized research projects. Coursework and special projects also support teachers in their roles as agents of change related to documents pertinent to educational reform such as Universal Preschool, First Class: A Guide for Early Primary Education, and Desired Results for Preschool Programs and California State Standards for the primary grades.

Our courses cover a wide range of topics including:

- * the development of language and literacy in first and second languages
- * the role of play in learning and development
- * the social nature of learning at home and at school
- * communication between early childhood educator and families
- * environments that support optimal learning
- * authentic assessment, including child study and the use of portfolios
- * techniques for organizing and implementing staff development and parent and family education

There are 12 units (4 courses) of required program courses for the MA in Early Childhood Education. The program also allows you to take 6 elective units (2 courses) from the menu of Early Childhood Education courses or in other approved areas such as curriculum, special education, reading and language.

HOW TO APPLY:

Program applications are available from the School of Education in Stevenson Hall 1078 or on our website, www.sonoma.edu/education under “Applications”.

Please submit the following to the Credentials Office, School of Education Stevenson Hall 1078, 1801 E. Cotati Ave., Rohnert Park, CA 94928.

1. Completed application form.
2. Official or unofficial transcripts (1 set from each institution you listed on page 5 of the application form)

Grade point average requirement: cumulative upper division/graduate 3.0; Education 3.0

3. A photocopy of any valid California teaching credentials or permits, if appropriate. No teaching credential is required for the MA degree. A B.A. or B.S. degree is required.
4. Two (2) relevant letters of reference
5. Your professional biography (150-200 words) in which you include:
 - a. A synopsis of your experiences in education or related fields
 - b. A narrative statement of your career goals and how you envision the degree/specialist credential contributing to your goals.

Your response will be evaluated on the organization and clarity of your ideas, conventional grammatical structure and appropriate use of English.

6. Documentation of University Admission or Application

Please note: acceptance into graduate study in the School of Education is dependent on acceptance to the University. Please submit an application for graduate study to SSU via www.csummentor.edu.

PLEASE NOTE: ACCEPTANCE INTO GRADUATE STUDY IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IS DEPENDENT ON ACCEPTANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY. PLEASE SUBMIT AN APPLICATION FOR GRADUATE STUDY TO THE OFFICE OF ADMISSIONS AND RECORDS AT SSU.

ECE M.A. Program Coursework: 30- 36 units

The total number of units of the program varies from 30 to 36 semester units, depending on the Culminating Path selected by the students. The following is a list of the courses ECE M.A. candidates take.

Education Core (6 units in EDUC courses)

EDUC 570 Reflective Educator (3)

EDUC 571 Research Paradigms in Education (3)

Masters Degree Culminating Paths (6-12 units)

Students select one of the following three paths

1. Thesis (6 units)

a. EDUC 598 Developing a Thesis Project (3)

b. EDUC 599 Supervised Research for the Thesis/Project (3)

2. Individualized exam (9 units)

a. EDUC 573 Supervised Study for the Individualized Examination (3)

b. Two other courses

3. Cognate (12 units – may include Specialist Credential coursework)

a. EDUC 572 Supervised Study for the Cognate (3)

b. Three other courses

Required ECE Core Courses in Concentration (12 units)

EDEC 531 (3) The Role of Play in Development and Learning (offered Fall of odd numbered years, 2007)

EDEC 532 (3) Social-Moral Development in Childhood (offered Fall of even numbered years, 2008) (It will be taught in the framework of Action Research)

EDEC 537 (3) Authentic Assessment in Preschool and Primary Programs (offered Spring of odd numbered years, 2007)

EDEC 538 (3) The Development of Language and Thinking in Infancy through Middle Childhood (offered Spring of even numbered years, 2006)

PLUS

Electives (6 units)

At least two courses in the areas of Special Education, Curriculum Teaching and Learning, Reading and Language, and/or special topics ECE-MA courses as offered will be chosen in consultation with the ECE Advisor and the Graduate Advisors of the above mentioned areas.

Some examples of course options are:

Special Education:

EDSP 422 Collaborative Partnerships in Special Education

EDSP 423A Assessment, Curriculum and Instructional Strategies

EDSP 430 Special Education for Teachers

Curriculum Teaching and Learning:

EDCT 585 Curriculum Development: Theory, Practice and Evaluation

EDCT 586 Teaching and Learning: Research and Application in the Classroom

Reading and Language

EDRL 507 Research in Language and Literacy

EDRL 521A Language Development in First and Second Languages

EDRL 524 Literature and Literacy