



Graduate Programs in Early Childhood Education

Program Advisor:
Chiara Bacigalupa, Ph.D.
707-664-2104

chiara.bacigalupa@sonoma.edu

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

The M.A. in Early Childhood Education (ECE) 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.

For those candidates who already hold a clear credential, 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 the California Children's Center Supervisory permit.

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

The ECE concentration of the Master of Arts in Education at Sonoma State University emphasizes the importance of understanding the links between child development and the practice of teaching 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 is emphasized in coursework and individualized research projects. Coursework and special projects also support teachers in their roles as agents of change.

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 and emotional 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



APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

How to apply:

PLEASE SUBMIT THE FOLLOWING TO:
CREDENTIALS OFFICE, SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
STEVENSON HALL ROOM 1078
SONOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
1801 E. COTATI AVENUE
ROHNERT PARK, CA 94928

1. One official/unofficial transcript from each college or university you have attended. *You must have taken at least one course dealing with theories of development and developmental changes from birth through middle childhood.*

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

2. A completed application form. *You must have completed at least one year of teaching experience in an Early Care and Education setting.*
3. Two (2) recent letters of reference (not more than one year old). Among other topics the letters should address the following:
 - How long the writer has known you and in what capacity
 - Your academic potential for graduate work
 - Your curiosity and passion to learn about children and education
 - Your commitment to promoting the quality of early care and education
4. A photocopy of a valid California teaching credential or permit, if appropriate. No teaching credential is required for the M.A. degree. Required: B.A. or B.S. degree.
5. A narrative statement of approximately 750 words, in which you answer the questions below. You do not have to list your answer to each question separately, but you should address all points in your narrative.
 - What are your career goals? How do you hope to use an M.A. degree to improve the lives of young children?
 - What development and learning theories guide your work with young children?
 - Briefly describe a book or article that you have recently read. In what ways does this text contribute to your understanding of children or early childhood education?
 - What are the most important issues in the field of Early Care and Education today?

Your response will be evaluated on the organization and clarity of your ideas, conventional grammatical structure, appropriate use of English, and scholarly potential. Please include references to academic or professional sources to support your points.

6. Documentation of University Admission or Application
7. After your application has been received, you will be notified of a date for an interview. The interview is required for admission to the program.

PLEASE NOTE: ACCEPTANCE IN GRADUATE STUDY IN THE SCHOOL OF EDUCATION IS DEPENDENT ON ACCEPTANCE TO THE UNIVERSITY. PLEASE SUBMIT YOUR APPLICATION VIA WWW.CSUMENTOR.EDU

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 students. The following is a list of the courses ECE M.A. candidates take.

Education Core (6 units 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 (9 units)	
Required ECE Core Courses in Concentration (12 units)	
EDEC 531	The Role of Play in Development and Learning (3) (offered Fall of odd numbered years)
EDEC 532	Social-Moral Development in Childhood (3) (offered Fall of even numbered years)
EDEC 537	Authentic Assessment in Preschool and Primary Programs (3) (offered Spring of odd numbered years)
EDEC 538	The Development of Language and Thinking in Infancy through Middle Childhood (3) (offered Spring of even numbered years)
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 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 423	Assessment, Curriculum and Instructional Strategies
EDSP 432	Designing Inclusive Environments in Early Childhood Education
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



GRADUATE PROGRAMS IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION APPLICATION

Masters in Education: Early Childhood Education

Application for: Fall _____ Spring _____
Year Year

Name: _____
Last First M.I.

Former Name(s): _____

Address: _____
_____ City State Zip

*Social Security Number _____ *Date of Birth _____

Gender: ___Male ___Female

Phone (Home): _____ Phone (Work): _____ Phone (Cell): _____

*E-mail Address: _____

School Name: _____

School Address: _____
Street
_____ City State Zip

**This information must be provided*

Ethnic Identity – Indicate the group with which you most strongly identify

- | | |
|---|----------------------------------|
| _____ 1. American Indian/Alaskan Native | _____ 13. Laotian |
| _____ 2. Black Non-Hispanic, including African American | _____ 14. Vietnamese |
| _____ 3. Mexican-American, Mexican, Chicano | _____ 15. Thai |
| _____ 4. Central American | _____ 16. Other Southeast Asian |
| _____ 5. South American | _____ 17. Guamanian |
| _____ 6. Cuban | _____ 18. Hawaiian |
| _____ 7. Puerto Rican | _____ 19. Samoan |
| _____ 8. Other Latino, Spanish-origin, Hispanic | _____ 20. Other Pacific Islander |
| _____ 9. Chinese | _____ 21. White |
| _____ 10. Japanese | _____ 22. Filipino |
| _____ 11. Korean | _____ 23. Other |
| _____ 12. Asian Indian | _____ 24. Decline to State |



PLEASE COMPLETE ALL OF THE FOLLOWING QUESTIONS:

Are you currently enrolled at SSU? Yes No

If yes, date admitted: _____

Have you ever previously applied for admission or ever been admitted to a credential or M.A. program at Sonoma State University? Yes No

If yes, which program(s): _____

Semester and year admitted: _____

Semester and year completed: _____

List all colleges/universities where you earned your B.A/B.S degree and where you have taken credential and graduate coursework. Please indicate the dates of attendance and degree(s), credential(s) earned if applicable.

List teaching experience (highlight work with children birth - 8 years old):

Signature

Date

Complete this form and return it to:

School of Education
Credentials Office
Stevenson Hall 1078

Sonoma State University
1801 East Cotati Avenue
Rohnert Park, CA 94928