



Master of Education with Concentration

Early Education & Child Care

39 credits, 4 terms full-time • This program satisfies national standards for early child care professionals. It does not satisfy licensure requirements for K-12 public school teachers.

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION AND CARE is a program of study of the general growth pattern of developing children. The program studies both the physical and psychological influences and educational experiences that contribute to making a healthy thriving child. Children require interaction and stimulation, affection, security, and learning through exploration and discovery using developmentally appropriate activities. The program integrates all aspects of development and education of children 0–8 years old in daycare settings and preschools.

Learning Outcomes — Developmental needs and appropriate activities are explored that are consistent with the age of the child. Discussions and classroom assignments are geared to Infants and toddlers who particularly need interaction with caregivers, including auditory stimulation and physical touch. Preschoolers ages three through five have more social needs, and begin to learn about how to get along with others. School-age children transition to more structured learning in the classroom but it is important to stress emotional needs. Best practices are modeled that is specific to the daycare education environment that deal with the hygiene and needs of diverse students, including English language learners and special needs students.

Careers — Graduates will be eligible to pursue jobs in preschool and daycare settings. Additionally, they would be able to prepare to plan and open a daycare center. However, this program does not lead to public school licensure.

Admissions requirements: Bachelor's degree and other general requirements (see Admission).

National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC): This program meets NAEYC standards, which can lead to career opportunities in the field. Students may apply for a student membership (visit naeyc.org).

Program starts in Fall term only and requires four consecutive terms.

Transfer students: Students in other Cambridge College education programs, who are not applying for public school licensure/certification, may apply to this program with permission of the program chair.

They must take this program's practicum, DMG615, and any other required courses not yet completed. The practicum may take place for these students in one term but cannot be used for certification.

Satisfactory academic progress — All students must maintain a minimum GPA of 3.0 or be placed on academic probation.

Program subject to change.

Professional Seminar & Project 12 credits

EEC691-693 Professional Seminar: Early Education & Child Care (3 terms @ 3 credits)

EEC800 Independent Learning Project (take with Seminar III)

Courses 21 credits

ELE500 Teaching Phonological & Phonemic Awareness & Phonics (0 credit; req. for ECE612) every term

ESP662 Principles of Language Development Bridging Difficulties and Disorders every term

ECE600 Development of Young Children Fall, Spring

ECE612 Developmental Reading for Early Childhood Birth to Eight Fall, Summer

ELE620 Integration of Children's Literature in Early Childhood & Elementary Curriculum Fall, Summer

ELE594 Integrating Physical Education into Early Childhood & Elementary Education (1 credit) Fall, Summer

ELE593 Integration of Visual Arts for Early Childhood & Elementary Curriculum (1 credit) Spring, Summer

ELE653 Teaching Science & Technology in Early Childhood & Elementary Curriculum Fall, Spring

MAT618 Math Essentials Summer

DMG615 Developing a Business Plan (1 credit) Fall, Summer

All courses 3 credits except as noted.

Practicum Prerequisite

- CPR course or update certificate from Red Cross or certified agency.

Practicum 6 credits

Includes field experience in a PreK-K setting (in the student's workplace or an assigned practicum placement) with supervision by qualified Cambridge College faculty and a licensed, site-based teacher.

EEC791-793 Practicum I, II, III: Early Education & Child Care — 3 terms @ 2 credits

- Each practicum requires 75 hours for a total of 225 hours.
- Practicum is required for program completion.
- Professional seminar required concurrently.
- Exit portfolio required each term for credit.

Optional: The 225 practicum hours may be completed in one term with program chair permission.