

### Early Childhood Education

*College of Education*

*Department of Educational Studies: Elementary and Early Childhood*

328 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-1516

<http://ed.mnsu.edu/eec/>

Chair: Peggy Ballard

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#### Students should contact the Office of the Dean for this college prior to choosing to major in Early Childhood Education.

The Department of Educational Studies: Elementary and Early Childhood has a major responsibility for providing professional education for early childhood and elementary teachers. The general goals of this program are to develop the dispositions, knowledge, and skills of candidates for licensure; to make available pre-professional clinical experiences in order to introduce students to the total early childhood education context; to provide the direct experience of teaching under supervision; and to develop understanding of developmentally appropriate curriculum design in its theory and process of formulation. Emphasis shall be on the acquiring of knowledge, professional skills and learning environment awareness.

Note: Requirements related to teaching majors or professional education coursework are subject to change as new rules governing program approval are adopted by the Board of Teaching.

#### Admission to the Major

1. Completion of 30 credits.
2. "A" or "B" in ENG 101 and CMST 100 or CMST 102.
3. Cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or better

#### Admission to Professional Education

1. Minimum grade of "B" (ENG 101, CMST 100 or CMST 102)
2. MATH 201; EEC 200 or EEC 201; and EEC 222W
3. Minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA
4. Minimum 40 credits
5. Completion of or registration for Basic Skills
6. Successful completion of Writing Assessment Lab and follow-up remediation

Admission is competitive based on scores determined by rubric.

- a. Recommendation forms focusing on professional dispositions and work experiences
- b. Cover letter and resume
- c. Academic record and GPA
- d. Writing assessment lab
- e. Interview

**Admission to Blocks.** Admission to blocks is by application.

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**P/N Grading Policy.** With the exception of student teaching, all courses that meet program requirements must be taken for a grade.

**FIELD EXPERIENCES.** A extensive component of professional education coursework involves field experience in area schools and early learning programs. These experiences are sequential in development. Multiple methods of assessment are used to document competencies. These methods include direct observations of teaching activities by public school, community program, and/or university faculty; the use of videotaped lessons and activities for self-assessment; use of logs; participation in on-line activities; and participation in activities reflective of the professional responsibilities of teachers. The successful completion of each field experience is necessary for progression into future field activities (e.g., student teaching). All field placements are initiated by the Office of Field Experience.

**Background Checks.** All field placements are initiated by the Office of Field Experience. Students involved in any field experience need to undergo a national criminal background check prior to admittance to professional education and prior to student teaching. Students are responsible for the fees associated with the background checks. This information is provided to districts for their determination of suitability for placement. The Office of Field Experience coordinates the background check process.

**Admission to Student Teaching:** <http://ed.mnsu.edu/clinical/teachinginfo/>

Coordinator for Admission to Student Teaching: Carol Werhan, Director of Clinical and Field Experience (119 Armstrong Hall)

Student teaching at Minnesota State Mankato is a result-oriented, performance-based 16-week program requiring the demonstration of an acceptable level of teaching performance. Performance is assessed in the areas of planning and preparation, enhancing the learning environment, teaching for student learning, and professionalism. Multiple methods of assessment are used and evidence collected to provide a view of the student teacher's skills and dispositions. These methods include direct observations of teaching activities by public school and University faculty, the use of videotaped lessons and activities reflective of professional responsibilities of teachers (e.g. parent conferences.). The Director of Field Experience facilitates placements for all student teachers in partner districts. Student teachers should not contact schools regarding their placement until directed to do so by the Director of Clinical and Field Experience. Admission to the student teaching experience is contingent upon completion of all general education requirements, a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, grades of "C" or better for all program requirements, admittance to teacher/professional education, completion of all methods and professional education course work, completion and validation of formal application materials one semester in advance of student teaching semester (obtain specific dates from 119 Armstrong Hall), attendance at all preliminary student teaching meetings, submission of scores on the Basic Skills (Reading/Writing /Math) test, recommendation of advisor, agreement of school district administration and cooperating teacher(s), and Director of Field Experience, and completion of criminal background check process. Application materials are available in 119 Armstrong Hall or on-line at <http://ed.mnsu.edu/clinical/teachinginfo/>

**Application for Teacher Licensure:** <http://ed.mnsu.edu/licensure/>

Coordinator of Teacher Licensure: Gail Orcutt (118 Armstrong Hall)

The University recommends licensure to a state upon satisfactory completion of a licensure program. However, licensure does not occur automatically through graduation and the awarding of a diploma. Students need to make application for a Minnesota teaching license at the close of the term in which they graduate. The College of Education, 118 Armstrong Hall, coordinates the licensure process. In addition to meeting all program requirements, students must successfully complete the Basic Skills examination of skills in reading, writing, and mathematics and the Early Childhood Pedagogy and Content examinations. Information about Praxis exams is available at: <http://ed.mnsu.edu/advising/praxis.html>

Minnesota State Law requires that all candidates applying for initial licensure in this state be fingerprinted for national background checks. A conduct review statement will also need to be completed and signed. There is a fee for the criminal background check. There is a fee payable to the State of Minnesota for the issuance of a State of Minnesota teaching license. Please contact Gail Orcutt for questions about the licensure process.

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#### EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BS, TEACHING

The Early Childhood Licensure Plan of Study lists general education courses, the professional core support courses, and the professional education courses; it is available in 117 Armstrong Hall.

## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

### Required General Education (20 credits)

This option is available for any major.

CDIS	205	Beginning Sign Language (3)
CMST	100	Fundamentals of Communication (3) <b>OR</b>
CMST	102	Public Speaking (3)
EEC	222W	Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3)
ENG	101	Composition (4)
MATH	201	Elements of Mathematics I (3)
PSYC	101	Psychology (4)

### Required Support Courses (Core 16 credits)

EEC	201	Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3)
EEC	225	Technology Applications in Education (2)
EEC	245	Early Childhood Health Safety and Nutrition (3)
EEC	227	Learning Development in the Early Years (3)
FCS	230	Child Care Psychology (3) <b>OR</b>
PSYC	230	Child Care Psychology (3)

\*Prerequisites to major course

### Required Major Courses (43 credits)

#### Professional Education Admission Required

EEC	311	Creative Arts Methods (3)
EEC	313	Including Young Children with Special Needs (3)
EEC	365	Teaching Infants and Toddlers (3)
EEC	366	Infants and Toddlers Field Experience (1)
EEC	368	Preprimary Methods and Materials (4) *
EEC	369	Preprimary Field Experience (1) *
EEC	412	Kindergarten Methods and Materials (3) *
EEC	413	Kindergarten Methods and Materials Lab (1) *
EEC	422	Reading Fundamentals (3) *
EEC	433	Observation, Screening and Assessment of Young Children (3)
EEC	434	Interdisciplinary Teaming: Collaborating with Families & Professionals (3)
EEC	435	Teacher-Parent Relationships in Education (3) *
EEC	440	Primary Grade Literacy & Social Studies Methods (4) *
EEC	441	Primary Grade Field Experience (1) *
EEC	442	Primary Grade Mathematics and Science Methods (4) *
EEC	443	Primary Grade Mathematics and Science Lab (1)
HP	413	Lifespan Motor Development (1-2)
KSP	415	Materials for Younger Children (2)
MUS	441	Music in Early Childhood (2)
SOWK	415	Child-Family Welfare Services (3)

\* requires application for admission 30 days prior to registration; forms on-line at: <http://ed.mnsu.edu/eec/forms/>

### STUDENT TEACHING (12 credits)

EEC	466	Early Childhood Student Teaching (K-3) and Seminar (12)
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### COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

#### EEC 201 (3) Introduction to Early Childhood Education

A foundational course for early childhood education majors. Observation in early learning settings, understand of the diversity of early childhood programs, introduction to teaching and early learners.

Fall

#### EEC 222W (3) Human Relations in a Multicultural Society

Study of interpersonal skills, motivation and group skills. Applied to educational settings. Meets State of Minnesota human relations requirement for teacher licensure.

Fall, Spring

GE-1C, GE-7, GE-11

#### EEC 225 (2) Technology Applications in Education

Provides the necessary knowledge base and instructional applications for using technology in the classroom.

#### EEC 227 (3) Learning Development in the Early Years

Introduction to development theorists who have impacted early childhood education. Explores child growth and development from prenatal to age eight.

#### EEC 245 (3) Early Childhood Health Safety and Nutrition

Health, safety, and nutritional needs of young children (birth - age 8) as well as educators' ethical and legal responsibilities related to child abuse. Includes CPR training.

#### EEC 311 (3) Creative Arts Methods

Methods of young children's visual and performing arts to enhance children's initiative, creativity, and self-esteem while focusing on fine motor development.

#### EEC 313 (3) Including Young Children with Special Needs

Foundational knowledge and early skills in serving young children with disabilities. Includes projects in the community related to observations, interviews, and hands-on service learning with young children, families, and professionals.

#### EEC 365 (3) Teaching Infants and Toddlers

Develop curriculum and design environment for young children at three ages: infant, toddler, three to four year olds.

Pre: EEC 201, FCS 301, FCS 303. Coreq: EEC 366

Spring

#### EEC 366 (1) Infants and Toddlers Field Experience

Clinical experiences to accompany EEC 365 Interaction strategies, learning environments, parent communications.

Coreq: EEC 365

Spring

#### EEC 368 (4) Preprimary Methods and Materials

Instructional strategies, theories of curriculum and development, integrated curriculum for 3, 4, and 5 year olds.

Coreq: EEC 369

Fall, Spring

#### EEC 369 (1) Preprimary Field Experience

Clinical experience to accompany EEC 368.

Coreq: EEC 368

Fall, Spring

#### EEC 412 (3) Kindergarten Methods and Materials

Instructional strategies, theories of curriculum and development, integrated curriculum for kindergarten children.

Co-req. EEC 413 for early childhood education major only.

Fall, Spring

#### EEC 413 (1) Kindergarten Methods and Materials: Lab

Clinical experience to accompany EEC 412.

Fall

Co-req: EEC 413 for early childhood education majors only.

#### EEC 422 (3) Reading Fundamentals

This course explores young children's (birth to age 8) development of emergent literacy skills related to reading, writing, visual representation, speaking, listening, and viewing. The role of parents and early childhood learning environments are included. Observation, assessment, and strategies to promote emergent literacy are discussed. The use of appropriate children's literature is promoted.

Fall, Spring

#### EEC 433 (3) Observation, Screening and Assessment of Young Children

Core skills for early childhood teachers to be able to conduct developmental screenings, perform child observations, administer criterion-referenced tests, develop authentic assessments designed for ongoing progress monitoring, and interpret standardized assessments. Red flags for referral to special education included.

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## EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

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### **EEC 434 (3) Interdisciplinary Teaming: Collaborating with Families and Professionals**

A theoretical and practical base for conferencing and collaboration with parents of children with special needs and other professionals during the IFSP or IEP team process.

### **EEC 435 (3) Teacher-Parent Relationships in Education**

Emphasis on parent-teacher relationships for effective learning of children through the elementary grades. Includes introduction to Early Childhood Family Education.

Fall, Spring

### **EEC 440 (4) Primary Grade Literacy & Social Studies Methods**

Students will investigate developmentally appropriate reading and literacy curriculum and methodology for primary grade students.

Coreq: EEC 441, EEC 442, EEC 443

Fall

### **EEC 441 (1) Primary Grade Field Experience**

Field experience related to the Primary grade methods and materials courses EEC 440 and EEC 442. Students will observe and teach primary-age children. Students will implement developmentally appropriate activities and lessons related to literacy, social studies, mathematics, and science.

Fall

### **EEC 442 (4) Primary Grade Mathematics and Science Methods**

Students will investigate developmentally appropriate methods and materials for the teaching of math, science, and social studies in the primary grades. Course will include techniques on how to plan an interdisciplinary approach to teaching math, science.

Coreq: EEC 440, EEC 441, EEC 443

Fall

### **EEC 443 (1) Primary Grade Mathematics and Science Lab**

Clinical field experience to accompany EEC 442. Students will observe and teach primary grade children for a minimum of 30 hours in a classroom. Students will plan and implement developmentally appropriate activities/lessons related to math, science.

Coreq: EEC 440, EEC 441, EEC 442

Fall

### **EEC 455 (3) Supervision and Leadership of Early Learning Environments**

Facilitation of understanding of supervising staff, program management and leadership in early care; addresses issues and methods for personnel working in public and private settings for young children from birth to age 8.

### **EEC 466 (12) Early Childhood Student Teaching (K-3) and Seminar**

Student teaching with young children in a kindergarten/primary grade classroom plus seminar.

Pre: EEC 365

Fall, Spring

### **EEC 475 (3-6) Enrichment Experiences Elementary**

Student teaching projects determined jointly by student and advisor.

Pre: EEC 473

Fall, Spring

### **EEC 490 (1-3) Workshop**

The workshop format provides teachers and others opportunity to study a specific topic in a shortened, hands-on course.

Variable

### **EEC 491 (1-4) In-Service**

Variable

### **EEC 495 (2-4) Internship: Early Childhood Family Education**

Principals and practices in Early Childhood/Family Education and programs. On-site experiences are required.

Pre: FCS 483, 488

Variable

### **EEC 496 (3-6) Internship**

Provides clinical experiences for pre-service teachers; extends laboratory experiences for those who have completed pre-student teaching experiences.

Pre: Required methods

Variable

### **EEC 499 (1-4) Individual Study**

By contract between student and faculty member.

Variable