

Early Childhood Education

Department of Curriculum and Instruction, College of Education and Human Services



Program of Study

Students combine a foundation of general studies with major courses and clinical experiences with children as they complete the early childhood education curriculum. A Bachelor of Science in education with a major in elementary education and an option in early childhood education leads to Illinois teacher licensure in birth through second grade (self-contained classrooms), including the preschool special education approval. This approval qualifies the educator to teach special education at the preschool level in either a self-contained class or a blended inclusion class.

In addition to extensive coursework in the major, students begin observing children early in the program and begin working with them in a variety of pre-primary and primary programs. Students' participation and responsibilities in these settings begin in the freshman year and gradually increase through the senior year, culminating in a 16-week student teaching experience under the supervision of experienced teachers.

Faculty

The professors in the WIU Department of Curriculum and Instruction have a strong interest in helping students develop into skilled, competent, and creative professionals. The faculty members hold advanced degrees from notable universities across the United States and are all experienced public school teachers. The faculty engage in a wide variety of scholarly activities that enhance their teaching: collaborating with local education agencies, participating in professional organizations, providing continuing education workshops, delivering professional conference presentations, publishing in education journals, authoring books and book chapters, and writing grants. Several have won teaching, technology, and/or research awards.

Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available to academically talented students through curriculum and instruction, the Center for Preparation of Education Professionals (CPEP) advising office and the College of Education and Human Services. Information about these scholarships can be found on the department website at wiu.edu/curriculum.

Honors College

Entering students with high ACT or SAT scores and/or top placement in their high school graduating classes may be eligible for the Centennial Honors College. Transferring students with high GPAs may be eligible, as well. General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. To find out more, visit wiu.edu/Honors.

Transfer Students

Many students enroll in Western's programs after completing one or two years at a community college. Because the programs are very specific and courses are sequential, it is imperative that students who are considering transferring into our program contact the CPEP advising office early for assistance with selecting appropriate community college classes to ensure a smooth transition from the community college to Western.

Student Activities

Students participate in professional groups such as the WIU Student Education Association, Council for Exceptional Children, Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education and Society of Educators. Students are also involved in the PreK-8 Science Update Conference, Assistive Technology Conference, WIU SEA Spring Conference and KDP Fall Conference. Information about other organizations can be found at wiu.edu/osa.

Special Opportunities

The early childhood education program is accredited through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The faculty in the department are committed to meeting the needs of individual students and communicate with them frequently. Courses and experiences prepare preservice teachers to support the development of the whole child, respond with flexible and professional judgment to the differing needs of children and families and actively engage children in their own learning. Students apply the knowledge gained in the classroom as they complete a variety of field experiences and student teaching. The department's Outstanding Pre-service Teaching Award (OPTA) recognizes students demonstrating excellence in academics and teaching.

College of Education and Human Services' Special Facilities

The facilities of the College of Education and Human Services (COEHS) include the 12,000-unit Children's Literature Examination Center (CLEC), 18,000-unit Curriculum Library, Interactive Multimedia (IMM) Lab, and WIU Infant/Preschool Center licensed daycare and lab training site.

After College

Nationwide studies indicate teacher shortages in some areas and suggest that job opportunities are increasing. All graduates of the early childhood education program are qualified to teach in self-contained birth through second grade classrooms. Graduate coursework is available for licensed teachers, qualifying them to serve as reading specialists, principals, curriculum directors, and superintendents.

For More Information

For more information, contact the CPEP advising center in Horrabin Hall 91 at (309) 298-1438 or the Department of Curriculum and Instruction in Horrabin Hall 40 at (309) 298-1961.

Early Childhood Education Sequence of Courses

FALL SEMESTER			SPRING SEMESTER			
UNIV 100	Prsnl Growth Well-Being Higher Ed	(1)	Fine Arts Elective		(3)	FRESHMAN YEAR Fall: 16 (14) hours Spring: 17 hours TOTAL: 33 (31 for transfers) hours
ENG 180	College Writing I	(3)*	STAT 171	General Elementary Statistics	(3)	
BIOL 100, 101, or 181	Biological Concepts/World	(4)	GEOG 110	World Regional Geography	(3)	
POLS 122	American Government & Politics	(3)		Earth/Space Science	(3)	
C&I 110	Critical Skills (NONTRANSFERS)	(2)	HIST 105 or 106	American Hist to/after 1877	(3)	
			SPED 210	Exceptional Learner	(2)	
Physical Science		(3)	COMM 241	Intro to Public Speaking	(3)	SOPHOMORE YEAR Fall: 17 hours Spring: 17 hours TOTAL: 67 (65 for transfers) hours
ENG 280	College Writing II	(3)		Humanities/Fine Arts	(3)	
	Human Well Being	(2 total)	MATH 260	Num Alg & Geo Reasoning Tchg	(4)	
EIS 202	Multi Cultural/Social Found of Educ	(3)	NUTR 203	Child Nutrition	(2)	
ECH 271	Early Childhood Education	(3)	ECH 277	Observ Assessmnt in ECH Educ	(3)	
ECH 273	Growth & Developmt Young Child	(3)	ECH 276	Parent/Community Involvement	(2)	
ECH 354	Infant/Toddler Environment (1st 8 wks)	(3)	ECH 356	Learn Envir: K & Primary Grades	(2)	JUNIOR YEAR Fall: 13 (15) hours Spring: 17 hours TOTAL: 97 hours
ECH 355	Org & Admin Pre Primary Lrng (2nd 8 wks)	(3)	ECH 381	Fieldwork ECH II	(1)	
ECH 359	Art & Movement Children 2-8 yrs	(2)	RDG 383	Literacy Instrn in the Early Grades	(3)	
ECH 380	Field Work ECH I	(1)	MATH 362	Tchg Math in Primary Grades	(3)	
LLA 311	Literature for Young Children	(2)	SCED 352	Methods Tchg Science PreK-2nd	(3)	
RDG 382	Lit Developmt: Birth-Preschool	(2)	SSED 354	Methods Tchg Soc Studies PreK-2nd	(3)	
C&I 110	Critical Skills (TRANSFERS ONLY)	(2)	SPED 250	Lang Devlpmt Exeprl Individuals	(2)	
ECH 357	Strategies Soc/Emot Growth Children	(2)	Student Teaching		(12)	SENIOR YEAR Fall: 13 hours Spring: 12 hours TOTAL: 122 hours
ECH 480	Field Work ECH III	(4)	ECH 410	Senior Seminar	(0)	
RDG 432	INtro Corrective Rdg ECH Years	(2)				
SPED 392	Strat & Procedrs Except Child 0-5	(2)				
ECON 100, 231, or 232	Intro Econ/Principles	(3)				

*Must be taken concurrently **Only one course must be a lab course +Grade of "C" or higher required

NOTE: This plan is subject to successful completion of pre-requisites and/or availability of courses.

wiu.edu/curriculum

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