

INTERDISCIPLINARY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH TO PRIMARY, FOR TEACHER LEADERS, MASTER OF ARTS IN EDUCATION (0461)

Program Coordinator

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The program is designed to prepare early childhood educators to provide leadership in working with children with and without disabilities, age's birth through kindergarten and their families. Courses and experiences include Professional Learning Communities in which students interact with other graduate students from various content areas and grade levels to discuss and work on real world challenges and promising practices they encounter in schools and other settings with early childhood programs. IECE program graduates are qualified to work with children from birth to entry into the primary program. This includes teaching children in kindergarten or other programs for five-year-olds if those programs are operated separately from the primary program. Graduates are prepared for positions in public schools, First Steps, Head Start programs, child care centers, and other public and private agencies serving young children and families. In addition, graduates may serve in leadership roles, such as preschool consultant, professional development provider, child evaluation specialist, etc.

Program Admission

To be considered for admission, applicants must be:

- WKU Graduate: Applicants who are alumni of WKU teacher preparation programs must hold or be eligible for a teaching certificate for Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. Applicants must submit a copy of the teaching certificate or Statement of Eligibility* with the application.
- Graduate of a Kentucky Higher Education Institution Other Than WKU: Applicants who completed their initial certification program at another Kentucky institution must have earned at least a 2.75 GPA* for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) and must hold or be eligible for a teaching certificate for Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. Applicants must submit a copy of the teaching certificate or Statement of Eligibility** with the application.
- Graduate of an Out-of-State Institution of Higher Education: Applicants who completed their initial certification program at an out of state institution must have earned at least a 2.75* GPA for all previous coursework (undergraduate and graduate) and must hold or be eligible for a teaching certificate for Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education. Applicants must submit a copy of the teaching certificate or Statement of Eligibility** with the application.

Applicants with undergraduate degrees from all other accredited universities with a GPA lower than 2.75 (undergraduate and graduate) must achieve a GAP score [(GRE-V + GRE-Q) added to (GPA X 100)] of 561 or higher. The 561 score must include a GRE Verbal Reasoning score of 143 or higher, a GRE Quantitative Reasoning score of 143 or higher, and

a GRE Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher. For GRE scores prior to August 1, 2011, a GAP score (GRE score multiplied by the undergraduate GPA) of 2200 or higher and a GRE Analytical Writing score of 3.5 or higher is required. In addition, applicants must have a valid teaching certificate for interdisciplinary early childhood education. A copy of the teaching certificate must be submitted with the application.

Please refer to the admission section (<http://catalog.wku.edu/graduate/admission>) of this catalog for Graduate School admission requirements.

Program Requirements (36 hours)

This degree program is designed for individuals who have prior teaching certification in IECE. The 36-hour program of study consists of 15 semester hours of professional education coursework, 12 semester hours of required specialization courses, and 9 semester hours of specialization electives approved by the advisor.

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
Professional Education Component		
TCHL 500	Foundations of Teacher Leadership ¹	3
IECE 530	Advanced IECE Curriculum Development	3
TCHL 560	Capstone Project for Teacher Leadership	3
IECE 520	Organizing Programs for Early Childhood Special Education	3
IECE 550	Advanced Early Childhood Assessment	3
Specialization Component		
TCHL 520	Principles of Action Research for Teacher Leaders	3
FACS 577	Child Development Theory and Research ²	3
CD 486G	Language Disorders ²	3
IECE 423G	Interdisciplinary Services for Young Children with Low Incidence Disabilities	3
Electives		
Advisor approved electives		9
Total Hours		36

¹ While enrolled in TCHL 500, students will use several documents, including their KTIP assessments or in-kind examples, dispositions self-surveys, referrals from school personnel, and their respective School Improvement Plan, to develop with their respective program advisors individualized programs of study of 36 hours related to Kentucky IECE Teacher Standards and professional goals.

² Or advisor approved elective