

INTERDISCIPLINARY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION, BIRTH TO PRIMARY, FOR INITIAL CERTIFICATION, MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING (0460)

Program Coordinator

Andrea Paganelli, andrea.paganelli@wku.edu, (270) 745-4420

The program is designed to prepare early childhood educators to work with children with and without disabilities, ages birth through kindergarten and their families. 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.

The MAT program in IECE, Birth to Primary, Initial Certification is for individuals who are not certified in any area of education. The performance-based program of study requires 33 semester hours of course work and various field experiences. The culminating capstone experience of the program is an internship. Upon completion of the program and achieving a passing score on the required PRAXIS II exam, students are eligible to be recommended for the Statement of Eligibility to teach children age's birth through kindergarten.

Program Admission

To be considered for admission, applicants must be:

- Have completed SPED 330 or SPED 516 or an equivalent introductory special education course prior to entering the MAT program or complete SPED 516 as a program deficiency.
- Present a letter of application including a professional goals statement.
- Provide three letters of reference. At least one reference letter must be from a university faculty member who can speak to the applicant's ability to be successful in a graduate program.
- Submit documentation to the School of Teacher Education in order to satisfy partial criteria for admission to professional education including: references; physical; signed code of ethics; criminal background check; Child Abuse & Neglect (CAN) check; and passing score on the PRAXIS examination.

Application Deadline Notes

For priority consideration applicants should submit application materials to the Graduate School by the following dates:

- Summer Admission: March 1;
- Fall Admission: May 1;
- Spring Admission: November 1

Applicants submitting materials after the above deadline dates cannot be guaranteed that applications will be reviewed in time for admission for the upcoming term nor that course space will be available.

Graduate School Admission

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

Program Requirements (33 hours)

Code	Title	Hours
Required Courses		
EDFN 500	Research Methods (or advisor approved research course)	3
IECE 520	Organizing Programs for Early Childhood Special Education	3
FACS 577	Child Development Theory and Research ¹	3
IECE 522	Family-Focused Services	3
IECE 423G	Interdisciplinary Services for Young Children with Low Incidence Disabilities ¹	3
IECE 521	Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education	3
SLP 517	Normal Language Development ¹	3
IECE 523	Planning Curriculum and Instruction in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	3
IECE 524	Internship in Early Childhood Special Education	3
SPED 523	Curriculum/Methods in Early Childhood Special Education	3
IECE 526	Practicum in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education ²	3
Total Hours		33

¹ Or advisor approved electives

² IECE 526 (1 hour) repeated 3 times (total of 3 hours) in conjunction with IECE 521, IECE 523 and SPED 523.