Master of Science in Early Childhood Education

“As a parent with three kids and two careers, I really needed the flexibility of an online program. UND’s online ECE program has been extremely positive for me. One of the things about an online program that has surprised me is that I’ve made friends online from all over the country. I feel like my horizons have really expanded in a way I did not expect. It’s been wonderful to implement what I’ve learned and to see the growth in my childcare kids…and in my own kids too.”

— Dalene Erickson, Childcare Provider, Ballroom Dance Instructor, Bethesda, MD (pictured)

Strengthen your skills in the education of children ages 0 to 8.

FAST FACTS

• 32 Credits
• 2+ Years to Complete
• Online: Interact in a Virtual Classroom
• College Accreditation: National Council for Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE)
• In-State Tuition Regardless of Residency

ABOUT THE DEGREE

The online Master of Science (MS) in Early Childhood Education prepares professional teachers and leaders to address the educational needs of young children, ages 0 to 8, in a variety of settings:

• public and private schools (PreK-Grade 3)
• Head Start programs
• child development and child care centers
• other programs related to the education of young children

Through online courses and a teaching practicum, you will learn educational methods that emphasize young children in the context of their family, gender, culture, and community.

Upon graduation, you will have advanced skills and knowledge to:

• encourage the child’s natural curiosity and exploration of the environment.
• develop an understanding of human diversity and recognize its value in a community of learners.
• create supportive and productive learning environments for children, teachers, parents, and support staff.
• integrate knowledge about children with special needs into curriculum and program development.
• be reflective in your approach to teaching and leadership

DEGREE REQUIREMENTS

32 credits are required for graduation, with a minimum of the following:

**Major = 20 Credits**

• SPED 510 - Early Intervention for Children with Special Needs (2 credits)
• T&L 526 - Play in Development and Early Childhood Education (2 credits)
• T&L 527 - Curricular Foundations in Early Childhood Education (3 credits)
• T&L 529 - Language Development and Cognition in Children (3 credits)
• T&L 530 - Foundations of Reading Instruction (3 credits)
• T&L 553 - Collaborative Relationships: Home, School, and Community (3 credits)
• T&L 580 - Practicum: Early Childhood Education (2 credits)
• T&L 995 - Scholarly Project (2 credits)
OR
• T&L 997 - Independent Study (2 credits)

**Scholarly Tools = 6 Credits**

• EFR 509 - Introduction to Educational Research (3 credits)
• T&L 569 - Action Research (3 credits)

**Electives (Advisor Approved) = 6 Credits**

Your advisor will assist you with a plan of study that meets UND’s degree requirements. For more details on the early childhood education curriculum, please visit our website.
**How Online Degrees Work**

You may earn your Master of Science (MS) in Early Childhood Education online from The University of North Dakota while you continue to live and work in your own community. You are **not** required to come to campus at any time.

**Virtual Classroom - Learn Anywhere, Anytime**
- Access online course materials
- Communicate through message boards
- Submit assignments
- Take tests
- View grades

**Practicum Near Your Local Community**

You may complete the required 60-hour practicum in your own pre-school, Kindergarten, or grade 1-3 classroom if it meets UND’s accreditation requirements (see website for details). If you are not teaching, UND faculty may be able to assist you in locating a qualifying practicum site.

**Who Should Apply?**

Regardless of where you live, you may earn your MS in Early Childhood Education from The University of North Dakota. The full or part-time, online program is designed for:
- certified teachers preparing to be teachers of students under the age of 8.
- certified or non-certified individuals who wish to study and do research in the area of early childhood education.
- non-certified individuals working in related professions who wish to gain knowledge and skills in the area of early childhood education.

**Admission Requirements**

- Bachelor’s degree from a regionally accredited institution in:
  - early childhood education
  - child development
  - elementary education
  - a related field
- An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 overall or a GPA of 3.00 in the last 2 years of your undergraduate program.
- Submission of a personal statement, to include career history and highlights, honors and achievements, skills relevant to the profession, and personal/professional goals.

**NOTE:** If you do not have a bachelor’s degree related to education, you may still apply to the program. See website for details.

**Application Process**

- Carefully review the UND School of Graduate Studies website (graduateschool.UND.edu) for complete details.
- Create a MyGradSpace account in order to complete the online application form. You will be prompted for additional requirements as necessary, including a non-refundable application fee, three letters of recommendation, and a statement of goals and objectives.
- Submit your official transcripts from all previously attended colleges and universities (including UND).

**NOTE:** All non-native speakers of English are required to submit their scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) or equivalent. See the UND School of Graduate Studies website for details.

**Tuition & Financial Aid**

Regardless of your residency status, you will be charged the **in-state, resident tuition rate** for this online program. Additional course and/or program fees may apply. For current tuition information, please visit our website.

**Financial Aid & Tuition Assistance**

As a degree seeking-student taking semester-based online courses, you may qualify for financial aid. The Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) is the only application UND requires to determine your eligibility for financial aid.

UND also accepts employer, military, and veteran tuition assistance.

**Application Deadlines**

UND accepts applications on an ongoing basis, or until the program is full. In general, you should submit your application and all required documents for full admission **at least 2 months prior to** the semester you plan to begin:
- Fall Semester: Apply by June 1
- Spring Semester: Apply by November 1
- Summer Semester: Apply by April 1

**Get Started Today!**

1.800.CALL.UND  |  701.777.3000
EducationOnline.UND.edu

Chat online with us to get immediate answers to your questions!