

The curriculum through which program mission and goals are pursued

Early Childhood Education

<http://fresnostate.edu/kremen/graduate/ma-childhood-ed.html>

Program Mission

The mission of the Early Childhood Education Program is to empower Early Childhood Education teacher leaders and Early Childhood Education program leaders to positively affect children's and families' lives and learning. To that end, the ECE advanced program aims to create leaders who are ethical, competent professionals who are current in the ECE field and are advocates for quality early childhood education.

Program

The Master of Arts degree in Education with an option in Early Childhood Education offers specialized preparation for a wide variety of positions in educational settings with children from birth through the primary grades. The program is flexible and designed to meet the needs of candidates with different professional and educational backgrounds and varied career objectives. Our program is designed for early childhood education professionals interested in becoming Teacher Leaders and Program Leaders:

- TK-Primary site/district teacher leader
- Preschool site teacher leader
- Infant/Toddler site teacher leader
- ECE curriculum specialist
- School readiness coordinator
- ECE program administrator
- Home visit coordinator
- Parent program coordinator
- Nonprofit or community-based organization leader
- Community college instructor

Program Summary: 30 units required

A. Course Requirements.....27 units

- ERE220 - Research in Education (3 units)
- CI285 - Seminar in Advanced Educational Psychology (3 units)
- LEE171 - Trends and Issues in ECE (3 units)
- LEE232 - Literacy in ECE (3 units)
- LEE233 - Curriculum and Assessment in ECE (3 units)
- LEE235 - Concept Development in ECE (3 units)
- LEE241 - Field Work in ECE (3 units)
- LEE250 - Leadership in ECE (3 units)
- LEE271 - Diversity and Inclusion in ECE (3 units)

B. Approved Electives.....3 units (if applicable)

C. Culminating Experience3 units

Choose one:

- (a) Comprehensive Exam (0 units) + approve elective (3 units), or

- (b) LEE298B - Project (3 units), or
- (c) LEE299 - Thesis (3 units)

Course Descriptions:

LEE 171: Trends & Issues in Early Childhood Education

A comprehensive study of the field of early childhood education, including principles of early childhood education, parent relations, use of community resources, and organization of programs in early childhood education.

LEE 232: Literacy in Early Childhood Education

Examines development of oral and written language skills in young children. Explores theories, curricula and strategies for teaching language arts and beginning reading.

LEE 233: Curriculum & Assessment in Early Childhood Education

Explores design of appropriate curriculum and assessment for young children. Course topics include standards, planning, project approach, integration of play, and materials; use of observation, rubrics, and portfolios to document development and learning; and organizing environments in early childhood settings, including infants through Grade 3.

LEE 235: Concept Development in Early Childhood Education

Explores how children develop conceptual understandings and is appropriate for professionals interested in gaining deeper insights to help them better interact with young children. The course will help professionals develop the ability to evaluate curricula and/or programs based on an understanding of cognitive development in young children. The course focuses on the work of Jean Piaget and Lev Vygotsky.

LEE 250: Leadership in Early Childhood Education

Leadership in creating, improving and expanding ECE programs, resources and services in schools and community settings. Course topics include leadership roles, planning for positive educational change, partnerships, and networking to advocate for ECE and family-friendly policies at the local, state, national and international levels.

LEE 271: Diversity & Inclusion in Early Childhood Education

Examines understanding and responding to cultural, ethnic, and linguistic diversity and ways they affect personality, language, cognitive development, and socialization. Topics include creating inclusive learning environments and curriculum in early childhood education.

CI 285: Seminar in Advanced Educational Psychology

Designed to foster in-depth exploration of concepts in development, cognition, and learning situated within educational contexts. Children's development and learning are examined within the context of school expectations, with an emphasis on the diversity among learners. This course is relevant to any graduate student with an interest in development and learning, particularly as they relate to schooling and other educational contexts.

LEE 241: Fieldwork in Early Childhood Education

Supervised ECE field experience including infant/toddlers, preschool, preprimary and/or primary grade children and their families in a variety of settings including schools, centers, home-based programs, agencies, organizations, etc.

ERE 220: Research in Education

Explores how to use different research methodologies to collect and interpret data and improve practice. **ERE 153: Educational Statistics is a pre-requisite for this course.