

erikson

What can you do
with an Erikson degree?

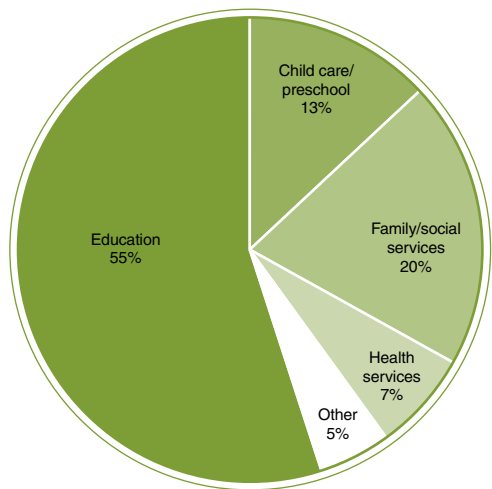
There are hundreds of ways to serve children and families, and our academic programs open doors to all of them. Erikson graduates possess a deep knowledge of child development. They have honed their skills as practitioners through internships and reflective practice assignments, and they have developed strong communication skills through essay writing, class discussions, and formal presentations. This broad preparation gives them the flexibility to pursue a variety of careers. The specializations we offer in infancy, bilingual/ESL, and child life increase our graduates' options even further.

“Erikson has a great reputation and certainly helped me stand out in job interviews. My education has served me well.”

Distribution of alumni by professions serving young children and families

Within each group, alumni are working in 10 to 20 distinct professions. We summarize the major professional clusters reported by our alumni in order to illustrate the many career options available to early childhood professionals.

*Based on the 2006 alumni survey



Erikson alumni are teachers in child care, Head Start, and elementary school classrooms. They work as early intervention specialists with infants and toddlers and their parents. They are also directors and administrators of programs serving young children and their families. Our graduates work in museums, zoos, after-school programs, and other non-school settings where young children can be found. They are child development specialists in agencies and in hospital child life programs. They serve as faculty in colleges and universities and provide professional development in a host of agencies. They also work as consultants to schools and agencies and as advocates and policymakers on behalf of young children.

A wealth of options

A sampling of positions held by our alumni bears out the breadth of career options and illustrates the impact our alumni are having on the education and care of young children nationwide.

Executive Director, [Salvation Army Child Care Program](#)

Executive Director, [Illinois Department of Children and Family Services, Early Childhood Unit](#)

Faculty member (e.g., in six of the seven child development departments of the City Colleges of Chicago, [DePaul University](#), [Erikson Institute](#), [Chicago State University](#), [Oakton Community College](#), [Santa Fe Community College](#), [New York University](#), [National Louis University](#), [Elmhurst College](#), [Kendall College](#), [Morton College](#))

Dean of the Faculty of Education, [University of Zimbabwe](#)

Cofounder, [DuPage Children's Museum](#)

Director of Child Life and Family Education, [University of Chicago Children's Hospital](#)

Vice President for Direct Service, [Ounce of Prevention Fund](#)

President, [National Black Child Development Institute](#)

Executive Director of Professional Development, [Chicago Public Schools](#)

Director, [Family Network](#)

Director, [Virginia Frank Child Development Center](#)

Founder and Director, [Project Match](#)

Principal, [Los Angeles County School District](#)

Early Childhood Service Coordinator, [Illinois DCFS](#)

Coordinator of Prevention Services, [Juvenile Protection Association](#)

Researcher, [High/Scope Foundation](#)

Chief Program Officer, [Illinois Action for Children](#)

Kindergarten teacher, [Lake Forest County Day School](#)

State Pre-K master teacher, [Metropolitan Family Services](#)

Elementary school teacher, [Mombasa Academy, Mombasa, Kenya](#)

Mental Health Coordinator, [Ounce of Prevention Fund](#)

Executive Director, [Neighborhood House](#)

Creative Arts Consultant

Director of Early Childhood Education, [Camino Nuevo Charter Academy](#)

Manager of Marketing and Education, [Make-A-Wish Foundation](#)

Family Literacy Coordinator, [Orange County Public Schools](#)

Director of Children and Youth Services, [McGuire Air Force Base](#)

Child Life Specialist, [Children's Memorial Hospital](#)

Healthy Steps Coordinator, [University of Illinois at Chicago Medical Center](#)

Social worker, Northwest Suburban Special
Education District

Neurodevelopment Specialist, Neuropsychology
Diagnostic Center Social-Emotional Consultant,
Child and Family Connections

National Child Care Director, Easter Seals, Inc.
Program Manager, DuPage County Health Department
Director, San Juan Island Family Resource Center
Educational Director, ChildrenFirst, Inc.

Zero to Three Curriculum Specialist, Howard Area
Community Center

Elementary school teacher (in school districts
throughout the U.S.)

Supervisor of Foster Parent Training, Catholic Charities
Director of Early Childhood Education, Beth Emet
Synagogue

Pediatric Life Specialist, University of Chicago Hospital
Program Manager, Easter Seals Child and Family
Connections

Child Development Specialist, Salvation Army
Center Assistant Director, Bright Horizons Family
Solutions

Executive Director, Positive Parenting DuPage

In a recent survey, nearly all respondents—96 percent—said that Erikson strengthened their skills as practitioners, especially their knowledge of child development, practice competencies, and self-reflection. Given the strong practitioner focus of our program, that comes as no surprise. Erikson also prepared them to work more effectively in a culturally diverse society. As a result, they are able to build stronger relationships with children, families, and colleagues in their professional activities. That success can take them in many different directions.

A lifetime of benefits

Career advancement

We asked our alumni how their Erikson education had helped them professionally. Four out of five told us that completing their Erikson degree helped them secure a better job. Two-thirds said their degrees resulted in a promotion or salary increase. In a field that has a reputation for paying low salaries, nearly two-thirds of our alumni earn more than \$40,000 a year, with 29 percent making more than \$60,000. Those reporting incomes below \$40,000 tend to be working part-time or are more recent graduates. Erikson graduates are also lifelong learners: 11 percent reported pursuing advanced degrees or additional certification after leaving Erikson, half of them earning Ph.D.s or Ed.D.s.

Erikson prides itself on preparing graduates for leadership in the field, and 80 percent of alumni report that we have done just that. Many are working in positions of considerable influence: 40 percent of alumni working in education are teaching at the college or university level, directing programs, or working as consultants. Similarly, 54 percent of alumni working in child care and preschools serve as directors, administrators, or consultants. One-fifth of alumni working in family and social services are directors. Those in direct service—in addition to the critical role they play in the lives of children and families—also report taking on leadership positions, for example in professional organizations, unions, and conference planning and presentations.

Career services

Erikson's location in the downtown area gives students ready access to a wealth of resources. Our Office of Career Services

supports students at every stage of their professional development. The director, an Erikson alum, helps students find part-time jobs, volunteer positions, and sites in the field. She identifies internship sites—students currently choose from 150 sites in the greater Chicago metropolitan area—and works closely with students and their faculty advisers to place students in sites that meet their career goals.

She orchestrates activities to introduce students to the variety of career options through panel discussions, shadowing opportunities, and networking. She assists graduating students and alumni with their job searches. Erikson maintains a “career resources” Web site for students and alumni, which includes job notices from organizations around the country and links to major organizations seeking early childhood professionals.

A national network

Erikson alumni live and work in 40 states and 15 foreign countries. Alumni stay connected through an active program of Erikson-sponsored professional development, mailings, and alumni events. Many regard the alumni directory as one of their most valuable professional resources. Alumni volunteers are an important resource, helping students find jobs, sponsoring interns, and participating in networking activities.

Faculty, with their professional connections at the local, national, and international levels, are also an excellent source of job leads and networking. Erikson's national reputation gives students and alumni access to networking opportunities and professional development at the national level.

“Erikson gave me a much richer understanding of children and appreciation of the complex factors that affect children and families. That knowledge base gives me a great sense of responsibility—and confidence.”

It is the policy of Erikson Institute not to discriminate against any individual on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex, sexual orientation, marital status, age, disability, or veteran status in matters of admissions, employment, or services or in the educational programs or activities it operates, in accordance with civil rights legislation and institutional commitment. Any alleged violations of this policy should be directed to the Vice President/Dean of Academic Affairs.

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graduate school in child development

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