

# Online Early Childhood Bilingual/ESL Graduate Certificate Program



Be as effective as you can be in  
today's early childhood classroom.

**American schools serve** an increasingly diverse student body. This has sparked an unprecedented demand for early childhood teachers with new skills and new understanding. More and more states are requiring bilingual and/or ESL approval to teach in their multilingual, multicultural classrooms.

Erikson's online bilingual/ESL graduate certificate program prepares you to meet these challenges.

Our 18-credit-hour course of study is one of the few certificate programs in the nation focused on preschool to third grade. Working from the latest theoretical frameworks, research findings, and methodologies, you will explore how young children learn language, the role of culture and family in supporting learning, and how teachers can contribute to the academic achievement of students whose first language is not English.

Whatever your teaching background—preschools, early child care programs, or public school classrooms—you'll get the training you need to work successfully with multilingual, multicultural children and to prepare for the bilingual and/or ESL approval required by many states.

And it's all online, so you can achieve your goals on your own schedule.

# Why Erikson?

We are the nation's only graduate school focused exclusively on improving care and education for children birth to age eight.

Erikson was founded in 1966 on the belief that all children deserve the best chance we can give them to learn and grow.

## Erikson's community of practice

As a student in the bilingual/ESL graduate certificate program, you'll never learn alone and unguided. You'll be part of a community of practice, a cohort in which you can

- Integrate current research into your practice and apply tested methods of teaching and assessing young children whose home language is other than English
- Identify and apply the fundamentals of effective early literacy instruction
- Examine the role that culture, community, and family play in creating effective programs and classrooms
- Focus on the issues that matter most to you—as a teacher, curriculum coordinator, or administrator
- Collaborate with and learn from peers

## All the support you need to succeed

You'll have all the support you need as a student of Erikson: dedicated advisers, academic writing support, extensive research resources through the library, career resources and advising, and a dedicated student services staff answering your questions. Plus, you'll be learning in an online environment like no other.

The program also features

- Experienced and knowledgeable faculty
- Close relationships among faculty and students
- A diverse and experienced student population
- A reflective methods seminar with a focus on self-knowledge as a vital professional competency
- A relationship-based approach to working with children and families
- Courses organized to present current research and best practices

*“Graduates of Erikson’s certificate program had exactly what I was looking for when I was hiring: ELL/bilingual certification, strong curricular knowledge, and a genuine student-centered approach to teaching.”*

**Jake Chung, Principal, Hoover Math and Science Academy**  
Schaumburg, Illinois

# Course work

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## First semester

Foundations of American Schooling and Bilingual Education  
(3 credit hours)

Language Development in New Language Learners  
(3 credit hours)

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## Second semester

Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners I  
(2 credit hours)

Emergent Literacy with New Language Learners  
(3 credit hours)

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## Third semester

Family and Culture  
(3 credit hours)

Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners II: Reflective Practice  
(2 credit hours, course meets every other week for two semesters)

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## Fourth semester

Assessment of New Language Learners  
(2 credit hours)

Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners II: Reflective Practice  
(continuation from the third semester)

Visit [www.erikson.edu/bilingual](http://www.erikson.edu/bilingual) for full course descriptions.

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## Technical requirements

Our program was built by and for early childhood professionals, with your skills and comfort level in mind. You'll be using advanced distance learning and community-building technologies, carefully streamlined and supported so they're simple and seamless to use. We'll give you a thorough orientation to the online environment before you start, and a real person will be standing by to help if you need it.

EriksonOnline, a user-friendly web-based learning environment, will be your gateway to all course activities and materials. You'll log in to EriksonOnline using a common web browser. You'll also use other free, common tools like Adobe Acrobat Reader, Flash Player, Skype, and Facebook to interact and collaborate. For details on technology requirements, visit [www.erikson.edu/onlinetech](http://www.erikson.edu/onlinetech).

### **Bilingual approval**

Bilingual approval typically allows an early childhood teacher to instruct young children in their native language and English. Erikson's certificate program is designed to enable bilingual, certified early childhood teachers to acquire bilingual approval and continue to work or seek employment in a bilingual early childhood education program. As each state has its own requirements for bilingual approval, you should contact the board of education in the state where you plan to teach for its requirements.

### **English as a second language (ESL) approval**

ESL approval typically prepares monolingual early childhood teachers (i.e., English language speaking only) to effectively instruct new language learners in English. Erikson's certificate program is designed to enable certified early childhood teachers to acquire ESL approval and continue to work or seek employment in an early childhood ESL program. As each state has its own requirements for ESL approval, you should contact the board of education in the state where you plan to teach for its requirements.

*“This training was essential to giving my students the education they need and deserve. Erikson lived up to its name; it’s challenging, it’s time-consuming, but it makes a huge difference in your life.”*

**Annie Perveneckis, '08, Kindergarten Teacher**

Cicero, Illinois

Read Annie's story at [www.erikson.edu/annie](http://www.erikson.edu/annie).

# Admission

The program is designed specifically for early childhood teachers (Pre-K through 3rd grade) working in public, charter, or private schools and agencies. Current teachers who hold a bachelor's degree and a minimum C+ (2.75) GPA on a 4-point scale are encouraged to apply. Teacher certification is not required for admission, but state boards of education typically only grant bilingual or ESL approval to certified teachers.

## Program length and start date

The program can be completed in 16 months. Student cohorts typically start the program in the spring semester, which begins in the first week of January.

## Applying

Complete an application for admission online at [www.erikson.edu/applications](http://www.erikson.edu/applications). In addition to the online application, you must submit official transcripts of all college and university work, three letters of recommendation, and a short essay. Students will be admitted on the basis of previous academic performance, work history, and suitability for the field.

The priority application deadline is October 15. We will continue to accept applications after the deadline if space is available.

## Financial aid

Eligible certificate program students may apply for low-interest federal student loans. To be considered for loan assistance, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) available at [www.fafsa.ed.gov](http://www.fafsa.ed.gov).

For additional information about financial aid, email [finaid@erikson.edu](mailto:finaid@erikson.edu).

## For more information

Visit [www.erikson.edu/bilingual](http://www.erikson.edu/bilingual) for more information about the certificate program.

For questions, contact

Office of Admission

Tel: (312) 755-2250

[admission@erikson.edu](mailto:admission@erikson.edu)

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graduate school in child development

**erikson institute**