



Erikson Institute

Online Master of Science
in Early Childhood Education

Erikson Institute's online Master of Science in Early Childhood Education is a **28-month program** that helps you do what you love, and do it better.

The focused, integrated curriculum will give you a deeper understanding of young children and new ways of looking at yourself as an early childhood professional.

You'll be part of a cohort, a community of practice in which you can

- Identify and focus on the issues that matter most to you—as a child and family professional, teacher, a curriculum coordinator, or a director/principal.
- Develop and refine advanced practice skills.
- Integrate and apply critical child development theory.
- Collaborate with and learn from peers.

And you can work at home, in the office, in the early morning, or late at night.

It's the perfect way to reach your true potential as an early childhood leader.

Erikson's online program is unlike any other.

A unique, three-part program that joins theory to practice

Integrative seminar

The first critical component is a program-long seminar—a real community of practice—that focuses on helping you integrate and apply what you're learning.

In the first year, you'll work with one faculty member, someone who will really get to know you—your strengths, your concerns, your viewpoint. You'll not only have the support and guidance of the instructor, you'll have the input and feedback of your peers. You'll bring issues from your practice into your seminar and look at them with new eyes.

In the final year, you'll have the chance to put it all together through action research. With the support of your seminar leader and peers, you'll choose a focus of interest, something relevant to your development as a practitioner. You'll design a plan of action and collect data, which you will analyze in the community of practice you've been a part of since the beginning of the program. You'll learn to reflect systematically and use your observations to examine and explain how and why things are the way they are.

Both parts of the integrative seminar are designed to give you all the pieces you need—theory, practice, research, and perspective—to advance your skills and practice to the next level.

Core courses

The core, a carefully sequenced set of six child development courses, lays the interdisciplinary foundation that sets Erikson graduates apart, whatever their field of practice. It provides you

with deep knowledge of the child's physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development in the context of his or her family and culture.

That knowledge will enrich your experience and improve your practice, whether that's teaching or directing the work of other educators.

Specialized courses

Four early childhood education courses specifically address your role as an educator by focusing on curriculum and assessment and effective teaching in prekindergarten through third grade settings.

All the support you need to succeed

You'll have all the advantages and support of our campus-based programs: 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.

It's simple—really. We understand you don't have time to battle with technology. 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 there's a real person standing by to help if you need it.

Course work

M.S. in Early Childhood Education, Generalist

38 credit hours

Year one

Spring Semester

- CHLD C432 Family and Culture (3 credits)
- EDUC T470 Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education I (2 credits)

Summer Semester

- EDUC T408 Foundations of Schooling and Curriculum for Pre-K to Grade 3 Programs (3 credits)
- EDUC T414 Key Concepts for the Pre-K to Grade 3 Curriculum: The Role of Content Knowledge in Teaching and Learning (2 credit hours)

Fall Semester

- CHLD C421 Human Development I (3 credits)
- EDUC T471 Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education II (2 credits)

Technical requirements

The EriksonOnline learning environment is built on Blackboard Learn, an industry-leading distance learning platform. You'll utilize other free, easy-to-use web-based tools like Adobe Acrobat Reader, Ensemble Video, WebEx, and Microsoft Office Online. To get the most out of your courses, you'll need access to a high-speed Internet connection. For details on technology requirements, visit www.erikson.edu/onlinetech.

Year two

Spring Semester

- CHLD C426 Development of Cognition, Language, and Play I: Cognitive Development (3 credits)
- CHLD C414 Working with Adults: Collaboration and Supervision (3 credits)
- EDUC T472 Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education III (2 credits)

Summer Semester

- CHLD C427 Development of Cognition, Language, and Play II: Language Development (3 credit hours)
- CHLD C425 Physical Growth and Development (3 credits)

Fall Semester

- EDUC T461 Assessment for Classroom Teachers (2 credits)
- EDUC T480 Integrative Seminar: Action Research in Diverse Early Education Settings I (2 credits)

Year three

Spring Semester

- EDUC T431 Advanced Methods of Teaching and Learning across the Pre-K to Grade 3 Curriculum (3 credit hours)
- EDUC T481 Integrative Seminar: Action Research in Diverse Early Education Settings II (3 credits)

M.S. in Early Childhood Education, Bilingual/English as a Second Language specialization

39 credit hours

The specialization in bilingual/English as a second language education helps early childhood educators expand the breadth and depth of their knowledge of the development of young children, and gain a deep understanding of the developmental characteristics and learning needs of children growing up with more than one language.

For prekindergarten through third grade teachers with a valid Illinois early childhood or elementary teaching license, the specialization will also fulfill the Illinois State Board of Education requirements for adding the bilingual and/or ESL endorsement.

To earn your master's in early childhood education with a specialization in bilingual/English as a second language education, you complete the early childhood education program, substituting five specialization courses for core courses, and also take one additional course.

The specialization includes a culminating action research project that explores the particular developmental characteristics and learning needs of dual language children.

Year one

Spring Semester

- CHLD C432 Family and Culture (3 credits)
- BESL B402 Language Development in New Language Learners (3 credits)
- BESL B470 Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education I (2 credits)

Summer Semester

- EDUC T408 Foundations of American Schooling and Bilingual Education (3 credits)
- BESL B405 Emergent Literacy with New Language Learners (3 credits)

Fall Semester

- CHLD C421 Human Development I: Psychosocial Development in Infancy and Childhood (3 credits)
- BESL B471 Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education II (2 credits)

Year two

Spring Semester

- CHLD C426 Development of Cognition, Language, and Play I: Cognitive Development (3 credits)
- BESL B402 Assessment of New Language Learners (2 credits)
- BESL B472 Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education III (2 credits)

Summer Semester

- CHLD C427 Development of Cognition, Language, and Play II: Language Development (3 credits)
- CHLD C425 Physical Growth and Development (3 credits)

Fall Semester

- BESL B406 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners I (2 credits)
- BESL B407 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners II (2 credits)

Year three

Spring Semester

- CHLD C414 Working with Adults: Collaboration and Supervision (3 credits)
- BESL B407 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners II (continuation from fall semester)

Why Erikson?

In 1966, Erikson was founded on the belief that all children deserve the best chance we can give them to learn and grow. Three simple, radical ideas form the basis of an Erikson education:

- An educator should know the whole child. A child is more than his or her body, emotions, intellect, language skills, learning ability, cultural identity, and relationships. A child is all of these things, the interaction of them, and more. So Erikson's comprehensive curriculum draws on the fields of psychology, neurobiology, anthropology, sociology, education, and other disciplines to shed light on the complex interplay of influences on each child.
- Children, like adults, learn best in responsive relationships. Erikson faculty engage you in relationships and encourage you to establish and enrich the relationships you have with children and adults in your practice.
- The key to improving practice is professional self-awareness. Through integrative seminars, you will develop the habit of reflecting on your work and on your role as an educator.

All three principles prepare you to work with people who come from backgrounds very different from your own and help you understand how your own culture and beliefs influence your work.

Other Erikson programs

On-campus degree programs

Master of Science in Child Development
Master of Science in Early Childhood Education
 leading to initial teacher licensure
Master of Social Work
Ph.D. in Child Development with Loyola
 University Chicago

Graduate certificate programs

Child development certificate (online)
Infant specialist certificate
Infant mental health certificate
Early childhood bilingual/ESL certificate (online)

Continuing education

Erikson offers short courses, trainings, workshops, and custom programs for experienced practitioners. Visit our web site for current programs at www.erikson.edu/professionaldevelopment.

“The most valuable part of my online Erikson experience was the relationships that were created and still continue today. My Erikson professors and support team were all very intentional in their planning to create our online learning community—a parallel process.”

Kimberly Hanes, M.S. in Early Childhood Education, 2014
Program Monitor, Prevention Initiatives Birth to Three Program Evaluation

Admission

Our online program is designed for experienced early childhood educators working with children from birth to age 8. Candidates can be educational coordinators, administrators in early childhood programs, educational consultants, early childhood teachers, or elementary teachers in primary grade classrooms.

The admission committee reviews each candidate as a whole. Admission criteria include, but are not limited to, the following:

- A bachelor's degree with a 2.75 minimum grade point average
- A minimum of two years of full-time, post-baccalaureate experience in an early childhood setting
- A demonstrated suitability for working with children and families

Applying for admission

To be considered for admission to the master's in child development program, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form available at www.erikson.edu/apply
- Applicant self-disclosure form
- Official sealed academic transcripts
- Two short essays
- Three letters of recommendation, including at least one from a current or recent supervisor commenting on the quality of your professional practice
- An interview with a faculty member is an important and required component of the admission process

Financial Aid

Eligible students enrolled in the online program may apply for low-interest federal student loans under two different federal loan programs: Stafford unsubsidized loans and Graduate PLUS loans. Erikson Institute participates in the William D. Ford Direct Loan program, which allows federal loans to be disbursed to students without going through a lending institution such as a bank.

We encourage you to begin the financial aid process at the same time that you are submitting your admission application materials. To be considered for loan assistance, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at fafsa.ed.gov, as well as Erikson's supplemental financial aid application form. For additional information about financial aid, please e-mail finaid@erikson.edu or call 312.893.7154.

For more information

For complete course descriptions and information about tuition and fees, financial aid, program accreditation, and student resources, as well as a demonstration of the EriksonOnline learning environment, please visit www.erikson.edu/online.

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, gender identity, gender expression, 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 Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs and Dean of Faculty.

Erikson Institute reserves the right to change without notice any statement in this publication concerning, but not limited to, rules, policies, tuition, fees, curricula, and courses.

Erikson Institute

**Because nothing matters more
than a child's early years.**

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