

Erikson at a glance

2015-16

Mission

Erikson Institute is an independent institution of higher education that prepares child development and family service professionals for leadership. Through its academic programs, applied research, and community initiatives, Erikson advances the ability of practitioners, researchers, and decision makers to improve life for children and their families. It is a catalyst for discovery and change, continually bringing the newest scientific knowledge and theories of children's development and learning into its classrooms and out to the community so that professionals serving children and families are informed, inspired, and responsive.

History

In 1966, four prominent child advocates—child psychologist Maria Piers, businessman and philanthropist Irving B. Harris, educator and activist Barbara Taylor Bowman, and social worker Lorraine Wallach—launched a program to provide early childhood teachers and caregivers with a comprehensive education in child development and a clear understanding of the role of family and culture in a child's life. They knew that quality early education and care could help children succeed, especially those children at risk for academic failure and social harm. And they knew that the better educated the adult, the better the outcomes for the child. Nearly 50 years later, Erikson Institute, named after the German-born psychoanalyst Erik Erikson (1902–94), remains both a pioneer and leader in the preparation of early childhood and family service professionals.

Academic programs

Forty-eight full- and part-time faculty teach the approximately 200 master's, 15 doctoral, and 50 certificate students enrolled in Erikson's academic programs:

- M.S. in Child Development
- M.S. in Child Development/M.J. in Children's Law and Policy Dual Degree*
- Master of Social Work
- M.S. in Early Childhood Education leading to initial early childhood teaching license
- M.S. in Early Childhood Education (Online)
- Ph.D. in Child Development*
- Infant Specialist Certificate Program
- Infant Mental Health Certificate Program
- Early Childhood Bilingual/ESL Certificate Program (Online)

**In collaboration with Loyola University Chicago.*

Continuing education programs

Through courses, workshops, webinars, and customized on-site staff development, Erikson helps further the education of thousands of working professionals each year. Continuing education programs and consulting are research-based and focus on

- Early intervention
- Teaching and learning
- Infancy (online courses)
- Social work practice

Center for Children and Families

The Center offers family-centered assessment and treatment for developmental, emotional, behavioral, and learning issues. Staffed by an interdisciplinary team of therapists, psychologists, developmental and behavioral pediatricians, and social workers, it is a unique resource for infants and young children.

Community engagement

Erikson faculty and research associates are committed to serving the Chicago community, including the Chicago Public Schools (CPS), with initiatives such as

- Austin Family, School, and Community Partnership
- Early Math Collaborative
- Envisioning Change: African American Educational Achievement
- Fussy Baby Network
- Illinois Department of Children and Family Services Early Childhood Unit
- Illinois Early Childhood Fellows Program
- Mindfulness and Other Replenishment Practices to Improve Young Children's Stress Levels, Self-Regulation, and Productive Engagement in School
- New Schools Project

Research initiatives

Erikson's Herr Research Center for Children and Social Policy conducts original research, evaluations, and analysis to inform, guide, and support effective early childhood policy. Erikson's full-time faculty and research associates also conduct applied research. Projects include

- Assessment in Early Childhood Classrooms
- Developing Early Childhood Teachers' Competence in Early Literacy Instruction with Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Children
- Educational Implementation Study: West DuPage Family Child Care Specialist Training and Research Project
- Illinois Action for Children North Lawndale Community Connections
- Infant Crying and Developmental Outcomes
- Predicting Early School Performance for Young Children with Disabilities
- Promoting Parent-Professional Partnerships in Early Childhood Special Education
- Promoting Parent Self-Efficacy

Annual budget

\$20 million

Accreditation

Erikson is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission and is a member of the North Central Association. Accreditation is limited to master's degrees and certificates in fields related to child development and early childhood education (including Bilingual/ESL certificate) and the Master of Social Work.

Alumni

Erikson's close to 3,000 alumni have served children and families in every capacity. Among our graduates are

- Louise Beem, cofounder, DuPage Children's Museum, and founder, early childhood care and education program at College of DuPage
- Carol Brunson Day, board president, National Association for the Education of Young Children
- Leon Denton, director of children and youth services, Salvation Army
- Chipu Dyanda, dean of the faculty of education, University of Zimbabwe
- Toby Herr, founder, Project Match
- Molly McGrath Tierney, director, Baltimore City Department of Social Services

Of our alumni working in the United States, 78% are in the Midwest. Alumni also work in 13 other countries.

Tuition & fees, 2015–16*

Master's Matriculation Fee	\$200 (nonrefundable)
Certificate Matriculation Fee	\$150 (nonrefundable)
Tuition	\$1000 per credit
Student Services Fee	\$600 for academic year

* Tuition and fees cited apply to Erikson Institute only. Loyola tuition and fees for children's law and policy specialization, M.S./M.J. dual degree, and Ph.D. students are billed separately by Loyola University Chicago. Please visit www.luc.edu for current rates.

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