

# Graduate certificate programs

Maybe you'd like to develop a specialty or update your current skills. Perhaps you want to add a credential to your resume. Either way, Erikson's graduate certificate programs are designed for you.

## As an early childhood professional,

you want comprehensive, high-quality classes taught by faculty who are respected experts in the field. You want a program that will fit into your working life. And you want the richest, most meaningful education you can get, an education you'll start to use even before you earn your certificate.

Erikson certificate programs offer all that and more. The 18-credit hour programs can be completed in two years or less, taking one or two courses per semester. On-campus classes are conveniently scheduled in the evenings to accommodate students' work schedules. Online classes offer even greater flexibility. And like all Erikson's academic programs, the certificate programs feature

- Experienced and knowledgeable faculty
- Small classes and close relationships with faculty and students
- A diverse and experienced student population
- Reflective seminars 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

## Online Bilingual/English as a Second Language Certificate Program

[www.erikson.edu/bilingual](http://www.erikson.edu/bilingual)

Program director: Luisiana Meléndez, Ph.D.

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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 certificate program is one of the few 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.

### Course work

#### *Year one*

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T408 Foundations of American Schooling and Bilingual Education (3 credit hours)

B402 Language Development in New Language Learners (3 credit hours)

B406 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners I (2 credit hours)

B405 Emergent Literacy with New Language Learners (3 credit hours)

#### *Year two*

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C432 Family and Culture (3 credit hours)

B407 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners II: Reflective Practice (2 credit hours, course meets every other week for two semesters)

B404 Assessment of New Language Learners (2 credit hours)

### Admission

The program is designed specifically for certified early childhood teachers (Pre-K through third grade) working in public, charter, or private schools and agencies. Current teachers who hold a bachelor's degree and have a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 on a 4-point scale are encouraged to apply.

To apply you must submit the following:

- Application for admission
- Applicant self-disclosure form
- Official sealed transcripts of all college and university work
- Three letters of recommendation
- Short personal essay

Applications will be reviewed and selected on the basis of previous academic performance, work history, and suitability for the field.

**Priority application deadline: October 15**

## Irving B. Harris Infant Mental Health Certificate Program

[www.erikson.edu/infantmentalhealth](http://www.erikson.edu/infantmentalhealth)

Program director: Linda Gilkerson, Ph.D.

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

Infant mental health—promoting mental, emotional, and social development during infancy—has become one of the most important fields in early childhood. Erikson’s certificate program prepares experienced infant/family specialists and mental health professionals to support the emotional health and development of infants, toddlers, and families in a range of settings. You will be trained to identify and intervene in, and/or collaborate with others to intervene in, troubled parent-child relationships and work with children with social-emotional behavior concerns. You also will be prepared to help programs move toward a relationship-based approach to practice and to mentor others in the infant/family field.

The program is designed for licensed mental health clinicians, credentialed early intervention (EI) providers, child development specialists, health professionals, and family support specialists with three years of experience working with infants, toddlers, and families.

### Course work

#### Prerequisites

*(Waived for students who have taken these or similar courses within the past five years)*

I390 Infant/Toddler Growth and Development: Typical and Atypical (3 credit hours)

I392 Infant/Toddler Screening and Assessment (3 credit hours)

#### Year one

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I370 Foundations of Infant Mental Health (2 credit hours)

I371 Infant Observation (1 credit hour each semester, 2 credit hours total)

I372 Infant Mental Health Practice: Developmental Intervention (3 credit hours)

I373 Clinical Seminar in Infant Mental Health (2 credit hours)

#### Year two

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I374 Developmental Assessment Institute (2 credit hours)

I375 Infant Mental Health Practice: Parent-Child Relationships (2 credit hours each semester, 4 credit hours total)

I376 Infant Mental Health Internship (1.5 credit hours each semester, 3 credit hours total)

### Admission

All applicants must have a bachelor’s degree, a minimum undergraduate grade point average of 2.75 on a 4-point scale, and three years of experience. Mental health clinicians must be licensed to practice in Illinois. Developmental specialists and family support specialists must have a master’s degree.

To apply you must submit the following:

- Application for admission
- Applicant self-disclosure form
- Official sealed transcripts of all college and university work
- Three letters of recommendation
- Short personal essay

Applications will be reviewed and selected on the basis of previous academic performance, work history, and suitability for the field.

**Priority application deadline: March 15**

## Irving B. Harris Infant Specialist Certificate Program

[www.erikson.edu/infantspecialist](http://www.erikson.edu/infantspecialist)

Program codirector: Sharon Syc, Ph.D.

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

Working with infants and families in the context of their culture and community is the hallmark of the infant and family field. If you have a particular passion for work with infants, toddlers, and their families, there has never been a better time to pursue infant studies.

Erikson's infant specialist program provides you with the training you need for the complex role of infant/family specialist. You can specialize in one of two areas:

- Prevention/early intervention
- Infant/toddler child care

You can work toward meeting the requirements for credentialing as an early intervention specialist in developmental therapy in Illinois by taking *I393 Prevention/Early Intervention Methods* and doing an internship under the supervision of a developmental therapist in Part C early intervention services.

### Course work

#### Year one

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- I390 Infant/Toddler Growth and Development: Typical and Atypical (3 credit hours)
- I391 Family Studies (3 credit hours)
- I392 Infant/Toddler Screening and Assessment (3 credit hours)

#### Year two

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- I393 Prevention/Early Intervention Methods  
(for students in the *Prevention/Early Intervention specialization*)  
(3 credit hours, year-long course)
- I361 Designing Quality Child Care for Infants, Toddlers and Their Families (for students in the *Infant/Toddler Child Care specialization*)  
(3 credit hours)
- I394 Internship and Seminar I (3 credit hours)
- I395 Internship and Seminar II (3 credit hours)

### Admission

All applicants must have a bachelor's degree and a minimum 2.75 grade point average on a 4-point scale. Professionals who have a minimum of three years of experience working with infants and families, as well as individuals who seek a career move into the infant and family field, are encouraged to apply.

To apply you must submit the following:

- Application for admission
- Applicant self-disclosure form
- Official sealed transcripts of all college and university work
- Three letters of recommendation
- Short personal essay

Applications will be reviewed and selected on the basis of previous academic performance, work history, and suitability for the field.

**Priority application deadline: March 15**

### Please note

Certificate programs do not lead to a degree, and courses you take in the program may not be applied to a degree program at Erikson.

### Tuition, fees, and financial aid

Tuition for the current academic year is published in the enclosed publication, *Erikson at a Glance*. Please note that tuition and fees are likely to increase slightly for the following academic year.

Eligible students enrolled in the certificate programs may apply for low-interest federal student loans by completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) and Erikson's financial aid application.

For more details, please visit [www.erikson.edu/financialaid](http://www.erikson.edu/financialaid) or contact the financial aid office at [finaid@erikson.edu](mailto:finaid@erikson.edu).

### Application for admission

The admission application materials can be downloaded at [www.erikson.edu/applications](http://www.erikson.edu/applications).

If you have questions about the admission process, please contact Valerie Williams, Associate Director, Admissions and Multicultural Student Affairs, at [vwilliams@erikson.edu](mailto:vwilliams@erikson.edu).

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.

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graduate school in child development

**erikson institute**