

Graduate Certificate Programs

Child Development

Early Childhood Bilingual/ESL

Infant Mental Health

Infant Specialist

Maybe you'd like to develop a specialized skill set or update your knowledge base. Perhaps you want to add a credential to your resume. Either way, Erikson Institute's graduate certificate programs are designed for you.

As a professional who works with young children and their families,

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 Institute's 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 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
- Courses organized to present current research and best practices
- A relationship-based approach to working with children and families
- Reflective seminars with a focus on self-knowledge as a vital professional competency

Why Erikson Institute?

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 yet powerful ideas form the basis of an Erikson education:

- Professionals who work with children should understand 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 between them, and more. So our comprehensive curriculum draws on the fields of psychology, neurobiology, anthropology, sociology, education, and more to shed light on the complex interplay of influences on each child.

- Children, like adults, develop and learn best in responsive relationships. Our faculty engage you in relationships and encourage you to establish and enrich the relationships you have with the children and adults with whom you work.

- 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 a professional who works with children and families.

All three principles prepare you to work with children, families and professionals who come from backgrounds very different from your own and our approach helps you understand how your own culture and beliefs influence your work.

Frequently asked questions

What is the difference between a post-baccalaureate certificate program and a graduate certificate program?

Post-baccalaureate certificate programs generally offer course work at the upper undergraduate level, while courses in graduate certificate programs are at the graduate level. There are always exceptions depending on the individual institution of higher education, but Erikson Institute's certificate program courses are all taught at the graduate level.

If I enroll in a certificate program and then later decide to enter a master's degree program at Erikson, will my credits from the certificate program transfer to the master's program?

Depending on the certificate program in which you're enrolled and the master's degree in which you're interested, 6–15 credits from your certificate program courses can transfer to an Erikson master's degree program. The only exception at this time is the Infant Mental Health certificate program, which is a post-master's certificate program. See the chart below for the maximum number of credits that can be transferred to an Erikson master's degree program:

Child Development

Up to 15 credits can transfer to the M.S. in Child Development program

Early Childhood Bilingual/ESL

Up to 16 credits can transfer to the M.S. in Early Childhood Education program

Infant Specialist

Up to 6 credits can transfer to the M.S. in Child Development program

I don't need to take any more courses for graduate credit. Do I have the option of enrolling in the courses for professional development credit instead of academic credit?

Yes. Contingent on approval from the program director and the admission committee, you can take the certificate program courses on a Pass/Fail basis for professional development credit. You should keep the following points in mind as you consider this option:

1. Courses taken for professional development credit are not eligible for federal or Erikson financial aid.
2. Courses taken for professional development credit are generally not eligible to be transferred to another degree program, either at Erikson or at another institution of higher education.
3. If you are enrolled in a certificate program to earn a professional credential or license, courses taken for professional development credit may not fulfill the requirements for the respective credential. For example, if you're seeking to earn your Bilingual and/or ESL endorsement from Illinois State Board of Education, you must take the bilingual/ESL program courses for academic credit. On the other hand, the courses in the infant specialist program can be taken for professional development credit and have been approved by Provider Connections for the four core knowledge content areas required for credentialing for Illinois Early Intervention Providers, Part C EI services. You should always check with the professional body that awards the credential which you are seeking to make sure that courses taken for professional development credit will be accepted.

Graduate certificate programs

Child Development Certificate Program (Online)

www.erikson.edu/development

There is a clear and growing need for well-trained professionals who work to improve the lives of children and families in a wide range of settings. And an expanding body of research has shown that to help children reach their full potentials, practitioners who work in capacities that serve children and families are more effective when they understand every aspect of the early years of life.

If you wish to improve your practice by gaining a deep, research-based understanding of early childhood development and family functioning, then our child development graduate certificate program should be at the top of your list of career development options.

Drawing on the core curriculum in our flagship master's degree program, the courses in the certificate program integrate relevant aspects of a range of disciplines including developmental psychology, neurobiology, anthropology, psychiatry, education, sociology, health and social work. With this interdisciplinary developmental knowledge you'll be able to support a child's optimal development. And whatever your field, you'll be prepared to respond effectively to the needs, challenges, and strengths of children and their families.

Course work

- C421 Human Development I: Psychosocial Development in Infancy and Childhood (3 credit hours)
- C422 Human Development II: Psychosocial Development from Early Adolescence through Adulthood (3 credit hours)
- C425 Physical Growth and Development (3 credit hours)
- C426 Development of Cognition, Language and Play I: Cognitive Development (3 credit hours)
- C432 Family and Culture (3 credit hours)
- C458 Capstone Integrative Seminar (3 credit hours)

Who should apply?

Professionals who work in child services, social work, early education, health care, occupational therapy, physical therapy, psychology, law, museum education, after school care, administration, policy and other related fields are strongly encouraged to apply to this certificate program. While previous hands-on experience with children is helpful, it is not a requirement for admission to this program.

Early Childhood Bilingual/English as a Second Language Certificate Program (Online)

www.erikson.edu/bilingual

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 Institute'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 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

- B402 Language Development in New Language Learners (3 credit hours)
- B404 Assessment of New Language Learners (2 credit hours)
- B405 Emergent Literacy with New Language Learners (3 credit hours)
- B406 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners I (2 credit hours)
- B407 Methods and Materials for Teaching New Language Learners II: Reflective Practice (2 credit hours, course meets for two semesters)
- C432 Family and Culture (3 credit hours)
- T408 Foundations of American Schooling and Bilingual Education (3 credit hours)

Who should apply?

The program is designed specifically for early childhood educators (Pre-K through third grade) working in public, charter, or private schools and agencies. Current educators 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.

Infant Mental Health Certificate Program

www.erikson.edu/imh

Infant mental health—promoting mental, emotional, and social development during infancy—has become one of the most important fields in early childhood.

Erikson Institute’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.

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)

Courses

- 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 Field Experience in Infant Mental Health (2 credit hours)
- 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)

Who should apply?

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. Mental health clinicians must be licensed to practice in Illinois. Developmental specialists and family support specialists must have a master’s degree.

Infant Specialist Certificate Program

www.erikson.edu/infant

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 Institute'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 *I397/398 Prevention/Early Intervention Methods I/II* and doing an internship under the supervision of a developmental therapist in Part C early intervention services.

Course work

- 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)
- I393 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)
- I397 Prevention/Early Intervention Methods I (*for students in the Prevention/Early Intervention specialization*) (1.5 credit hours)
- I398 Prevention/Early Intervention Methods II (*for students in the Prevention/Early Intervention specialization*) (1.5 credit hours)

Who should apply?

Professionals who are currently working with infants and families, as well as individuals who seek a career move into the infant and family field, are encouraged to apply.

Admission

Admission Criteria

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

- A bachelor's degree from an accredited institution of higher education with a GPA of at least 2.75 on a 4-point scale
- A demonstrated suitability for working with children and families
- Requisite experience working with children and families. Please review the requirements for previous experience in the 'Who should apply?' section of the respective program in which you are interested.

Applying for admission

To be considered for admission to a graduate certificate program, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form
- Applicant self-disclosure form
- Official sealed academic transcripts of all previous college and university work
- Three short essays
- Two letters of recommendation

All application materials, with the exception of official academic transcripts, are submitted online at www.erikson.edu/apply.

An interview with a faculty member is an important and required component of the admission process.

Application deadlines

Erikson Institute uses a rolling admission process and accepts applications until all spaces have been filled. As soon as the admission committee has a complete application, including a required interview, they will review it and make a decision. We do recommend, however, submitting your application by the following priority application deadlines in order to allow the maximum timeframe possible to complete the course registration, financial aid, and orientation processes for the respective program:

Child Development	May 1
Early Childhood Bilingual/ESL	October 15
Infant Mental Health	March 15
Infant Specialist	March 15

For more information

If you have questions about the admission process, please contact Maggie Murphy, Assistant Director, Admission and International Student Services, at MMurphy@erikson.edu

To request more information, please visit www.erikson.edu/certificate or contact:

Office of Admission
Erikson Institute
451 North LaSalle Street
Chicago, Illinois 60654-4510
(312) 755-2250
admission@erikson.edu

Financial aid

Students in Erikson Institute's graduate certificate programs have access to the following sources of financial aid funding:

Stafford and Graduate PLUS Direct Loans

Erikson participates in the William D. Ford Direct Loan program. Eligible students may borrow under two different loan programs: Stafford unsubsidized loans and Graduate PLUS loans. In order to receive federal student loans, you must meet all of the following criteria:

- Be a U.S. citizen or eligible non-citizen;
- Be accepted to, or continuing in, a degree or certificate program at Erikson Institute;
- Not be in default on a student loan or owe a refund on any federal Title IV financial aid;
- Submit all required federal and/or institutional documentation;
- Maintain satisfactory academic progress as outlined in the Student Handbook

Gateways to Opportunity Scholarships

The Gateways to Opportunity Scholarship Program is an individual-based scholarship opportunity for eligible Illinois practitioners working in early care and education or school-age care programs. The Gateways Scholarship Program will pay a percentage of tuition and fees dependent upon availability of funding. For information about the Gateways to Opportunity scholarship program, please visit www.ilgateways.com.

Certificate Program Scholarships

Erikson is fortunate to have generous partners at the state, local and national level who from time to time fund scholarships for a specific graduate certificate program. As these opportunities arise, the availability of such funding is communicated through our web site, our community partners, and direct communication with you.

Applying for financial aid

To apply for financial aid, you must

- File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov, and
- Complete the Erikson financial aid application, available at www.erikson.edu/financialaid

We encourage you to begin the financial aid process at the same time as your application for admission. You do not need to wait to be admitted in order to start the financial aid process.

For more information

If you have questions about the financial aid process, please contact the Financial Aid Office at FinAid@erikson.edu or call (312) 755-2250.

Additional information about tuition and fees, financial aid application materials, and payment plan options is available at www.erikson.edu/financialaid.

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.

Other Erikson Institute programs

Degree programs

M.S. in Child Development

M.S. in Early Childhood Education (online)

M.S. in Early Childhood Education leading to initial teacher licensure

Master of Social Work

Ph.D. in Child Development (with Loyola University Chicago)

Continuing education

Erikson offers workshops, webinars, and custom online programs, including seminars led by nationally recognized experts that focus on cutting-edge issues in child development. For our current programs, visit www.erikson.edu/continuing-education.

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