

Accelerate your advocacy career

with policy degree programs
at Erikson Institute

Child & Family Policy

Erikson Institute enhances the learning experiences of new and returning policy students with activities, events, and resources that support your success as a student and professional.

MS in Child Development and MJ in Children's Law and Policy (Dual Degree)

- On-campus and Online
- Full-time

MS in Child Development Child and Family Policy concentration

- On-campus
- Full- or Part-time

Master of Social Work Child and Family Policy concentration

- On-campus
- Full- or Part-time



Unique Curriculum

Erikson offers three options to help you advance as an advocate and claim a seat at the table where decisions are made about family support policies. Erikson's expertise in child development prepares students to impact public policies across systems — health, housing, education, child welfare — that help children reach their full potential. Policy students at Erikson develop a broad, well-informed perspective by working with experienced faculty who conduct applied research in the field. All three options benefit students with curriculum that goes beyond the basics to identify unintended consequences of policies and discover innovative ways to work towards social justice.

The **Dual Degree (MS in Child Development and MJ in Children's Law and Policy)** is the first of its kind in the nation. This program is offered in conjunction with Loyola University Chicago School of Law's Civitas ChildLaw Center. Graduates of this program earn an MS in Child Development from Erikson and an MJ in Children's Law and Policy from Loyola University of Chicago.

We also offer a **Child and Family Policy concentration within both our Master of Child Development and Master of Social Work programs.**

Policy students in these programs will take concentration courses through Loyola's ChildLaw Center.

Immersion Weekends & Institutes

In conjunction with Loyola, there are immersive educational opportunities for all Erikson policy students to help you broaden your knowledge, and network with other students, alumni, and faculty. Students will participate in the annual week-long Children, Family, and the Law Summer Institute, where you will hear from guest speakers including a judge, participate in a mock trial, and attend juvenile court. Loyola also hosts annual Education Immersion Weekends where you can attend workshops, present your Capstone project, and discuss policy topics.



For the sake of the future of all children, the world needs to change. As our country is governed by laws and policies, my course work and experiences have taught me to give voice to systemic inequalities and marginalization of communities. Erikson made me realize how early childhood can truly impact the person, the family, and their communities. We need to create a foundation for healthy childhood development by being brave and speaking up about how systems affect children based on culture and diverse differences.”

Jennifer Baquedano
Erikson Institute
Dual Degree '20

Erikson’s Policy & Leadership Department

Erikson’s Policy & Leadership department, a non-academic arm of the Institute, offers unique opportunities for policy students, such as lunch & learns, workshops, policy briefings, and internships. Access to our nationally recognized leadership team provides insights into our real-world initiatives that improve the lives of children, families, and communities. Learn more about the department at www.erikson.edu/policyleadership.

Career Services

Learn more about policy related careers from a variety of policy leaders at our Annual Policy Mentoring Roundtable. Our Career Services team also offers career counseling, interview preparation, resume reviews, and alumni networking events throughout the year.

The Erikson Approach

Knowledge

Learn how children develop and the complex contextual factors that shape their development.

Practice

Elevate and sharpen your skills through a two-semester internship.

Reflection

Develop your reflective practice skills in our Integrative Seminars.

A high-quality education that meets your needs



Policy & Leadership

Initiatives supporting public policies impacting children.



Erikson culture

Small class sizes and easy access to faculty foster strong learning relationships.



Faculty expertise

Our professors are scholars and advocates for the benefit of children and families.



Industry knowledge

Erikson has over 50 years of experience in early childhood education and child development.

Erikson Institute

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PROGRAM ACCREDITATIONS AND APPROVALS: Erikson Institute is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission, 230 South LaSalle Street, Suite 7-500, Chicago, Illinois 60604-1411, (800) 621-7440, www.hlcommission.org. Erikson’s Master of Social Work program is accredited by the Council on Social Work Education, www.cswe.org.