Master of Science in Early Childhood Education—IL Professional Educator License (PEL)

Prepare to teach young children (birth through 2nd grade) with a Master of Science in Early Childhood Education that leads to initial Illinois teacher licensure. Erikson Institute’s early childhood education program provides you with a deep, interdisciplinary understanding of the latest research and theories in early childhood education, child development and teaching methods.

You will take courses in education, child development, and methods of teaching that meet Illinois teacher licensure requirements. This licensure degree program culminates in a two-semester student teaching experience. Erikson also offers two additional Illinois early childhood endorsements: bilingual/English as a second language and the special education credential.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of our Master of Science in Early Childhood Education program can consider careers such as: licensed early childhood teacher, master teacher, education coordinator, early childhood program director, curriculum coordinator, bilingual ESL/ELL teacher, and early childhood special education teacher.

Why Erikson?

• Earn your Illinois Processional Educator License (PEL).
• Add to your expertise with optional credentials: Bilingual/ESL endorsement or your Early Childhood Special Education letter of approval, and/or LBS1 Early Childhood. Additional courses are required for each of these credentials.
• We offer flexibility with a range of full- and part-time programs.
• Access to dedicated advisors, academic writing support, library, career services and student services.
We Can Help
Erikson awards over $2 million in scholarships and grants each year. Scholarships are awarded for the entirety of the program. Scholarship and grant eligibility are contingent upon admission and completion of a FASFA. Additional criteria may apply. For the most up to date information on scholarships and financial aid, visit www.erikson.edu/finaid. Our dedicated financial aid staff can help you learn about the options available to you.

Our Mission
Erikson Institute educates, inspires, and promotes leadership to serve the needs of children and families so that all can achieve optimal educational, social, emotional, and physical well-being.

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 student teaching experience.

Reflection
Develop your reflective practice skills in our Integrative Seminars.

A high-quality education that meets your needs

Program flexibility
Attend full or part time.

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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