Erikson Institute

Deepen your expertise

with a PhD in Child Development



Program Specifics

42 Credit Hours

Learning Format:



Campus

Program Length: About 6 years

Session Start Date: Fall Term

PhD in Child Development

The PhD program in child development is offered in conjunction with Loyola University Chicago. This unique program focuses on applied research and scholarship, including how educational institutions, intervention programs, policies, and issues such as poverty and language can impact child development, health, and well-being.

This post-master's degree program requires two semesters of doctoral internship, with at least one semester focused on research. You will need to apply to both programs and be accepted by both institutions. Students typically finish all requirements for the doctorate within six years of admission to the program.

Career Opportunities

Graduates of our doctoral program can consider careers such as: applied child development research, program design and evaluation, college teaching, program administration, and policy analysis.

Why Erikson?

- Our focus is on studying children and families in the contexts where they live, allowing you to make a real-world impact with children, youth and families.
- Erikson curriculum includes the latest research and theory in applied child development.
- Our size allows more direct interaction with faculty and other students while our affiliation with Loyola provides resources and coursework from a larger higher education institution.
- Join our Doctoral Student Association and attend social and educational events.



What made me most marketable during my job search was the knowledge I'd gained in the classroom combined with the applied research I'd done with Erikson's Early Math Collaborative. Just a month after earning my PhD, I accepted a tenuretrack position at St. John's University."

Bilge Cerezci Erikson Institute MS '09, PhD '16

We Can Help



We currently offer partial scholarships to doctoral students for program coursework. Additionally Erikson may offer doctoral assistantships based on availability. 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.

All other types of financial assistance for doctoral students, such as federal or private student loans, are handled through Loyola University Chicago. Questions regarding eligibility for and availability of aid should be directed to Loyola at (773) 508-2984 or gradfinaid@luc.edu.

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 internship.

Research

Erikson faculty conducts research in fields related to early childhood, parenting and support and social influences on development.

A high-quality education that meets your needs



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.



Innovatio

We offer one of the few PhD programs in the U.S. that focuses on applied child development research.

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