



Master of Social Work

erikson institute
graduate school in child development

You can be a different kind of child and family social worker—one equipped with an interdisciplinary and deep understanding of social work *and* child development.

Join the next generation of social workers

who are choosing Erikson Institute's unique approach to social work education. Our M.S.W. produces practitioners equipped with an unmatched understanding of child development and empowered to improve the lives of children and families, especially the most vulnerable.

At Erikson, this developmental perspective is infused throughout the social work curriculum, rather than concentrated in one or two courses. As an M.S.W. student, you'll delve into the complexity, diversity, and ambiguity that you will face in your social work practice. When you graduate, you'll have the advanced social work and child development practice skills needed to serve the children, families, and communities with whom you work.

Come to Erikson to focus your career where it matters most—on our nation's children and families.

Erikson Institute's M.S.W. program is one of a kind

Social work + child development

The only program of its kind in the nation, Erikson's M.S.W. program prepares developmentally-informed social workers to advance social and economic justice through their work with children and families.

You will be prepared to advocate for and address the complex needs of diverse populations in a range of practice settings:

- Social service organizations
- Courts
- Foster care
- Child welfare
- Early intervention
- Mental health
- Hospitals
- Community development
- Early childhood care and education
- Therapeutic schools

Course work

Through a combination of social work and child development courses, you will achieve competency in social work and child development knowledge, values, and practice skills.

Field placement

You will complete a total of 1200 hours of supervised field instruction over two years. Typically, you will spend two days per week in an approved social work field placement during the foundation year (first year of field placement) for a total of 480 hours. Students in the advanced year (final year of the M.S.W. program) are most often in field placements three full days per week throughout the academic year for a total of 720 hours.

Recent field placement sites for social work students include:

Center for Children and Families
Chicago Institute for Psychoanalysis
Family Focus
Horizon Hospice
Illinois Department of Children and Family Services
Jewish Child and Family Services
Ann & Robert H. Lurie Children's Hospital of Chicago
National Alliance on Mental Illness
The Sonia Shankman Orthogenic School

Integrative seminar

The heart of our M.S.W. program is an intensive two-year supervision seminar, a supportive forum for you to reflect critically on your social work practice and your own reactions, assumptions, and values.

For two and a half hours every week, faculty support and challenge students to integrate theory and research from the classroom with their practice in the field. This transformative experience helps you hone your professional identity as an advanced social worker with a deep mastery of child development.

Strong faculty and students

Successful social workers excel in teamwork and collaboration, and the classroom experience at Erikson prepares you for both.

Our top social work and child development faculty bring an unusual diversity of professional expertise and personal experience to their teaching, and our students bring with them a broad range of academic and professional backgrounds. The rich interaction inside and outside of our classroom models the very skills needed to advocate for children and families.

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, radical 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 social work, psychology, neurobiology, anthropology, sociology, education, and more to shed light on the complex interplay of influences on each child.

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

- The key to improving practice is professional self-awareness. Through integrative seminars, our students develop the habit of reflecting on their work and on their role as social work professionals.

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 social work practice.

*“I could not have made a better decision for myself personally or professionally,” says alumna **Robin Rios, M.S. '09**, a child therapist and social worker at the Infant Welfare Society of Chicago. “Even in my work with adolescents, I always turn to my Erikson education to think about how their childhood has influenced and affected their behavior.”*

Admission and financial aid

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 minimum of one year of work and/or volunteer experience in a supervised setting with children and families. Two years is preferred
- A demonstrated suitability for working with children and families

Applying for admission

To be considered for admission to the Master of Social Work program, you must submit the following:

- A completed application form
- Applicant self-disclosure form
- Official sealed academic transcripts
- Three short essays
- Three letters of recommendation

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

Financial aid

Erikson Institute awards financial aid in the form of federal loans, need-based grants, and competitive scholarships to approximately three-fourths of its master's students.

Eligibility for financial aid is based primarily on demonstrated financial need. The priority financial aid application deadline is March 1, although we will continue to award financial aid after that date contingent upon availability of funding.

To apply for financial aid, you must file the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) at fafsa.ed.gov, and complete the Erikson supplemental financial aid application, available at www.erikson.edu/finaid.

We encourage you to submit our supplemental financial aid application at the same time that you submit your admission application materials. You may submit the FAFSA online beginning January 1.

For additional information about financial aid, email finaid@erikson.edu or call (312) 755-2250.

For more information

For complete course descriptions and information about tuition and fees, financial aid, program accreditation, and student resources, visit www.erikson.edu/msw.

To request more information, visit www.erikson.edu or contact

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

Course work

The 60-credit-hour program can be completed in two or three years.

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| K410 | Introduction to Developmentally-Informed Social Work |
| K420 | Research Methods |
| K421 | Human Development I: Psychosocial Development in Infancy and Childhood |
| K422 | Human Development II: Psychosocial Development from Early Adolescence through Adulthood |
| K426 | Development of Cognition, Language, and Play I: Cognitive Development |
| K427 | Development of Cognition, Language, and Play II: Language Development |
| K430 | Working with Individuals, Families, and Groups I |
| K431 | Working with Organizations and Communities |
| K432 | Family and Culture |
| K433 | Working with Individuals, Families, and Groups II |
| K434 | Children, Families, and the Law |
| K435 | Biopsychosocial Problems |
| K436 | Advanced Treatment with Parents and Children |
| K437 | Trauma-Informed Social Work Practice |
| K438 | Working with Families and Children with Diverse Abilities |
| K439 | History of Social Welfare and Social Policy |
| K454 | Advanced Practice with Children, Adolescents, and Adults |

Field instruction and seminars

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| K440 | Foundation Field Instruction I |
| K441 | Foundation Supervision Seminar I |
| K442 | Foundation Field Instruction II |
| K443 | Foundation Supervision Seminar II |
| K450 | Advanced Field Instruction I: Children and Families |
| K451 | Advanced Supervision Seminar I: Children and Families |
| K452 | Advanced Field Instruction II: Children and Families |
| K453 | Advanced Supervision Seminar II: Children and Families |

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

Accreditation is limited to master's degrees and certificates in fields related to child development and early childhood education (including Bilingual/ESL certificate) and the Master of Social Work.

Erikson's M.S. in Early Childhood Education leading to initial early childhood teaching license is approved by the Illinois State Board of Education. The Early Childhood Bilingual/English as a Second Language Certificate Program and the Early Childhood Special Education Letter of Approval are approved by the Illinois State Board of Education's Division of Educator Certification.

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

Ph.D. in Child Development with Loyola University Chicago

Graduate certificate programs

Infant Specialist Certificate

Infant Mental Health Certificate

Early Childhood Bilingual/ESL Certificate (online)

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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