



erikson

Online Master of Science
in Early Childhood Education

Really. Erikson's new online master of science in early childhood education is a **28-month, 38-credit program** that helps you do what you love, and do it better.

The focused, integrated curriculum will give you a deeper understanding of young children and new way of looking at yourself as an educator.

You'll be part of a cohort, a community of practice in which you can

- identify and focus on the issues that matter most to *you*— as a teacher, a curriculum coordinator, or a director/principal;
- develop and refine advanced practice skills;
- integrate and apply critical child development theory;
- collaborate with and learn from peers.

And you can work at home, in the office, in the early morning, or late at night.

It's the perfect way to reach your true potential as an educator.

Erikson's online program is unlike any other.

A unique, three-part program that joins theory to practice

Integrative seminar

The first critical component is a program-long seminar—a real community of practice—that focuses on helping you integrate and apply what you're learning.

During the first five semesters, you'll work with one faculty member, someone who will really get to know you: your strengths, your concerns, your viewpoint. You'll not only have the support and guidance of the instructor, you'll have the input and feedback of your peers. You'll bring issues from your practice into your seminar and look at them with new eyes.

In the final two semesters, you'll have the chance to put it all together through action research. With the support of your seminar leader and peers, you'll choose a focus of interest, something relevant to your development as a practitioner. You'll design a plan of action and collect data, which you will analyze in the community of practice you've been a part of since the beginning of the program. You'll learn to reflect systematically and use your observations to examine and explain how and why things are the way they are.

Both parts of the integrative seminar are designed to give you all the pieces you need—theory, practice, research, and perspective—to advance your skills and practice to the next level.

Core courses

The core, a carefully sequenced set of six child development courses, lays the interdisciplinary foundation that sets Erikson graduates apart, whatever their field of practice. It provides you with deep knowledge of the child's physical, cognitive, and social-emotional development in the context of his or her family and culture. That knowledge will enrich your experience and improve your practice, whether that's teaching or directing the work of other educators.

Specialized courses

Four early childhood education courses specifically address your role as an educator by focusing on curriculum and assessment and effective teaching for prekindergarten through third grade.

All the support you need to succeed

You'll have all the advantages and support of our campus-based programs: dedicated advisers, academic writing support, extensive research resources through the library, career resources and advising, and a dedicated student services staff answering your questions. Plus, you'll be learning in an online environment like no other.

It's simple—really. We understand you don't have time to battle with technology. Our program was built by and for early childhood professionals, with your skills and comfort level in mind. You'll be using advanced distance learning and community-building technologies, carefully streamlined and supported so they're simple and seamless to use. We'll give you a thorough orientation to the online environment before you start, and there's a real person standing by to help if you need it.

Course work

Year one

Spring Semester

Family and Culture (3 credits)

Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education I (2 credits)

Summer Semester

Foundations of Schooling and Curriculum for Pre-K to Grade 3 Programs (3 credits)

Key Concepts for the Pre-K to Grade 3 Curriculum: The Role of Content Knowledge in Teaching and Learning (2 credits)

Fall Semester

Human Development I (3 credits)

Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education II (2 credits)

Year two

Spring Semester

Development of Cognition, Language, and Play I: Cognitive Development (3 credits)

Working with Adults: Collaboration and Supervision (3 credits)

Integrative Seminar: Leadership in Early Childhood Education III (2 credits)

Summer Semester

Development of Cognition, Language, and Play II: Language Development (3 credits)

Physical Growth and Development (3 credits)

Fall Semester

Assessment for Classroom Teachers (2 credits)

Integrative Seminar: Action Research in Diverse Early Education Settings I (2 credits)

Year three

Spring Semester

Advanced Methods of Teaching and Learning across the Pre-K to Grade 3 Curriculum (3 credits)

Integrative Seminar: Action Research in Diverse Early Education Settings II (2 credits)

Technical requirements

The EriksonOnline learning environment is built on Blackboard Learn, an industry-leading distance learning platform. You'll utilize other free, easy-to-use web-based tools like Adobe Acrobat Reader, Flash Player, Skype, Delicious, and Facebook. To get the most out of your courses, you'll need access to a high-speed Internet connection. For details on technology requirements, see our website www.erikson.edu/onlinetech.

Why Erikson?

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:

- An educator should know 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 Erikson's 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, learn best in responsive relationships. Erikson faculty engage students in relationships and encourage students to establish and enrich the relationships they have with children and adults in their practice.
- The key to improving practice is professional self-awareness. Through integrative seminars, Erikson students develop the habit of reflecting on their work and on their role as educators.

All three principles prepare you to work with people who come from backgrounds very different from your own and help you understand how your own culture and beliefs influence your work.

“I am completely impressed with the lengths that the Erikson community has gone to ensure we feel a part of that community. It is very welcoming. I was quite nervous about going back to school 10 years later, but my mind has been put at ease.”

Jennifer Miller, online M.S. in Early Childhood Education student,
child care center director, East Peoria, Illinois

Admission

Our online program is designed for experienced early childhood educators working with children from birth to age eight. Candidates can be educational coordinators, directors, and other administrators in early childhood education, early childhood teachers, or elementary teachers in primary grade classrooms.

To be considered for admission, applicants should have the following:

- A bachelor's degree with a 2.75 minimum grade point average;
- A minimum of two years of full-time, post-baccalaureate experience in an early childhood setting (three years preferred);
- Three letters of recommendation, including at least one from a current or recent supervisor commenting on the quality of your professional practice.

Applying

Complete an application for admission online at www.erikson.edu/apply. In addition to the online application, applicants must submit an applicant self-disclosure form and official, sealed transcripts from all previous colleges/universities attended.

Financial aid

Eligible students enrolled in the online program may apply for low-interest federal student loans under three different federal loan programs: Stafford subsidized loans, Stafford unsubsidized loans, and Graduate

PLUS loans. Erikson Institute participates in the William D. Ford Direct Loan program, which allows federal loans to be disbursed to students without going through a lending institution such as a bank.

We encourage you to begin the financial aid process at the same time that you are submitting your admission application materials. To be considered for loan assistance, you must complete the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), available at fafsa.ed.gov, as well as Erikson's supplemental financial aid application form. For additional information about financial aid, e-mail 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, as well as a demonstration of the EriksonOnline learning environment, visit www.erikson.edu/online.

To request more information, visit www.erikson.edu/online 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.

Other Erikson programs

Degree programs

M.S. in child development

M.S. in early childhood education leading to initial teacher certification

M.S. in child development/M.S.W. in clinical social work with Loyola University Chicago

Ph.D. in child development with Loyola University Chicago

Graduate certificate programs

Irving B. Harris infant specialist certificate

Irving B. Harris infant mental health certificate

Early childhood bilingual/ESL certificate

Year-round professional development programs

Erikson offers short courses, trainings, workshops, and custom programs for experienced practitioners.

For current programs, visit our website at

www.erikson.edu/professionaldevelopment.

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graduate school in child development

erikson institute