

# MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

**Web Site:** <https://twu.edu/literacy-and-learning/graduate-programs/med-in-early-childhood-education/>

The Master of Education in Early Childhood Education will prepare professionals to work with children and families in formal and informal settings, such as agencies, schools, and homes, as teachers, directors, advocates, and specialists. This program also provides professional development for teachers of young children.

The M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education may be completed up to 100% online.

## Marketable Skills

Marketable skills prepare students for success in a variety of professional settings. Developed through academic coursework, co-curricular engagement, and extracurricular involvement, these skills include communication, critical thinking, teamwork, ethical reasoning, adaptability, and digital literacy. Whether directly related to a student's major or serving as complementary strengths, marketable skills enhance career readiness and reflect TWU's commitment to producing graduates who are prepared to thrive in today's dynamic workforce.

1. Knowledgeably advocate for changes in educational practices based on current trends, issues, or research to improve the lives of young children and their families in communities and schools.
2. Knowledgeably apply leadership skills to empower others, including young children, to practice collaboration, cooperation, critical thinking, problem-solving, and effective communication, orally and in writing.
3. Effectively apply a variety of observation and assessment techniques to clearly communicate developmentally appropriate skills and abilities of young children to organizations, administrators, and families.
4. Critically evaluate text to inform, argue, persuade, or motivate others using research, academic vocabulary, and content knowledge to reliably organize, develop, and elaborate on educational topics.
5. Effectively integrate technology to engage young children while independently using technology tools for learning, to find resources for improving pedagogy, and communicating with families.
6. Effectively identify appropriate professional and ethical interactions and behaviors while modeling acceptance of a variety of diverse lifestyles, cultures, ethnicity, family types, religion, and socioeconomic status over the course of their career.
7. Accurately determine appropriate theoretical applications to pedagogical situations, tasks, and lessons in order to promote developmentally appropriate instruction for young children.

## Admissions

All students must meet the University requirements as outlined in the Admission to the TWU Graduate School (<https://catalog.twu.edu/graduate/graduate-school/admission-graduate-school/>) section of the catalog.

The academic program may have additional admission criteria that must also be completed as outlined on the program's website.

## Degree Requirements

### Total Semester Credit Hours Required

**Thesis Option:** 30 semester credit hours (SCH).

**Professional Option:** 31 semester credit hours (SCH).

### Thesis Option (30 SCH)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
ECE 5213	Curriculum Development in Early Childhood	3
HDFS 5223	Child Growth and Development in Early Childhood	3
<b>Research</b>		
HDFS 5193	Statistics for Family Sciences	3
HDFS 5693	Research Methods in Family Sciences	3
ECE 5983	Thesis	3
ECE 5993	Thesis	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
ECE 5203	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood	3
ECE 5263	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	3
ECE 5283	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) in Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 5773	School, Family, and Cultural Diversity: Community Connections	3
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>30</b>

### Professional Option (31 SCH)

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Core</b>		
ECE 5213	Curriculum Development in Early Childhood	3
HDFS 5223	Child Growth and Development in Early Childhood	3
<b>Research</b>		
ECE 5583	Action Research in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
ECE 5263	Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood	3
<b>Content Specialization</b>		
ECE 5203	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood	3
ECE 5283	Science, Technology, Engineering, Art and Math (STEAM) in Early Childhood Education	3
ECE 5433	Brain-Based Learning for the Young Child	3
HDFS 5593	Play, Development, and the Young Learner	3
<b>Professional Development</b>		
ECE 5413	Leadership, Advocacy and Public Policy for Young Children	3
ECE 5773	School, Family, and Cultural Diversity: Community Connections	3

### Graduation Requirement

ECE 5931	Portfolio	1
<b>Total SCHs</b>		<b>31</b>

### **Special Requirements**

No grade below B is accepted towards any graduate degree in the Department of Literacy and Learning. If more than one grade below B is earned while enrolled in any Literacy and Learning graduate program, the student will be dismissed from the program.

### **Final Examination**

In addition to the completion of a thesis or professional portfolio, students must complete a final examination consisting of an oral defense of this document. The student's advisory committee determines the outcome of the exam. The examination may be repeated if deemed appropriate by the student's advisory committee, with the approval of the department chair. The advisory committee should consist of three faculty members, all of whom must hold Graduate Faculty status, and at least two of whom must be Literacy and Learning faculty from the Early Childhood Development and Education component.