Master of Science in Education in Special Education
Specialization in Early Childhood Special Education

Prior to admission to the program:

_____ An undergraduate GPA of 3.00 or higher for the last two years of undergraduate work.

_____ Three letters of recommendation.

_____ A completed admissions application to the Graduate School, www.grad.niu.edu. (A complete graduate application includes a completed application, payment of an application fee, official transcripts, required test scores, career goals statement, and letters of recommendation).

_____ Not required for those already licensed or not seeking Licensure

Successful completion of the Illinois State Licensure Testing System Test of Basic Skills, starting Sept 11, 2010 #300 or the Test of Academic Proficiency #400 (starting Feb 1, 2012). You can find information and a study guide for this test located at http://www.icts.nesinc.com/. Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Special and Early Education (SEED), 162 Gabel Hall, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115.

Please note the program only accepts 15 hours of credit as a Student at Large. After 15 hours of credit, you must be admitted to LBSI program

Once you have been admitted:

_____ Accept your admission using My NIU. http://www.niu.edu/myniu/ Job aids for My NIU are located at http://www.niu.edu/myniutraining/training/student_training.shtml. If you have additional problems you can contact the ITS Help desk by calling 815-753-8100.

_____ Meet with your advisor to plan your Program of study. Now is the time to discuss any life experience and how you may substitute it for some of your clinical experience. Your faculty Mentor can discuss the procedures to use to substitute your life experience for the Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education.

_____ You should also discuss any transfer credits from other universities. Please have a copy of the syllabus from the course(s) in question. The syllabus will be used to determine if the appropriate course standards have been met.

_____ Students who wish to obtain an LBS 1 or Early Childhood teacher licensure as part of their program must complete course work required for licensure. Practicum, if needed. Please telephone the Clinical office (815-753-9034) to 1 year prior to the semester you expect to take the Practicum. All graduate students applying for the practicum must be admitted into the graduate program before they turn in their paperwork to the clinical office.

For students whose undergraduate major was not special education or who have limited background in their chosen specialization. SEED may require deficiency or prerequisite course hours may not be counted toward the minimum 36 semester hours of the master’s degree program.
Program of Study for Early Childhood Special Education:

___ One graduate-level course in research approved by adviser (3)
SESE 792 Single-Case Research Methodologies and Research-Bsed prctices in Special Education or another course with adviser approval

___ SESE 540, Foundations of Special Education (3)
Not required for students with an Illinois Special Education Teaching Licensure. Please check with your advisor to determine if you should take this course.

___ SESE 523, Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education (3)
___ SESE 524, Instructional Systems for the Education of Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children with Disabilities (3)
___ SESE 526, Working with Families of Young Children with Disabilities (3)
___ SESE 527, Issues in Early Childhood Special Education (3)
___ SESE 587N, Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education (3)

___ 15 hours in elective course work. You may wish include course work toward the Early Childhood Special Education approval (see below). Check with your advisor for appropriate course selection.

Individuals who are licensed or endorsed in special education (LBS I) or early childhood education wishing to obtain the Special Education Approval must take one of the following:

___ LTLA 537, Acquisition of Spoken and Written Language (3)

Note: Students may take COMD 220, Introduction to Communicative Disorders (3) to fulfill the requirement for the EC Special Education Approval. This class is not available for graduate credit and will not count to fulfill the Masters degree requirements.

Prior to graduation:

___ Meet with your advisor to determine if all requirements for your Masters degree have been completed.

___ The semester before you plan to graduate complete the Application for Graduation. You should apply using My NIU, http://www.niu.edu/myniu/. Failure to do so will delay your graduation.

Although not required for graduation the following must be completed prior to receiving the Early Childhood Special Education Approval:

___ To add the approval to your PEL you need to apply on line using your ELIS account, http://www.isbe.net/ELIS/default.htm. If needed you can find a list of the Regional Offices located at http://www.isbe.net/regionaloffices/pdf/roedirectory.pdf

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