Master of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education
Students seeking Initial Professional Education License Birth to grade 3

Students seeking admission to this program may take approved courses in the program prior to admission; please contact Leslie Hecht for the course selection. Applications are posted at the Graduate School web site. Students interested in this program may apply at any time, as there may a limited number of openings available and late applications may not be considered.

STUDENT CHECK LIST

This checklist is an advising tool. It is the student’s responsibility to read the Graduate Catalog for programmatic information including courses, course prerequisites and other program requirements.

Prior to admission to the program:

- An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher for your work.
- Two letters of recommendation.
- A completed admissions application to the Graduate School, www.grad.niu.edu. (A complete graduate application includes, a completed application, payment an application fee, official transcripts, required test scores, career goals statement, and letters of recommendation).
- Successful completion of the Illinois State Licensure Testing System Test of Academic Proficiency #400.

You can find information and a study guide for this test located at http://www.il.nesinc.com. Effective Dec 19, 2012: ACT/SAT scores can be used in lieu of the TAP exam (formerly known as the Illinois Basic Skills Test). If you choose this option you must contact the program advisor to make sure all of the correct paper work is filed.

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.

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 faculty advisor to plan your Program of Study. Discuss relevant life experience and whether you can substitute it for some of your clinical experience. Discuss transfer credits from other universities. Please provide copies of the syllabi from the course(s) in question, to determine if the appropriate course standards have been met.
- Effective Fall 2014. You need to complete a “capacity to perform” check through the district you are assigned by the Clinical Office. (105 ILCS 5/24-5) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-5)
- Clinical experience, if needed. Please telephone the Clinical office (815-753-9096) one year prior to the semester in which you expect to student teach.

Program of study for Initial Early Childhood Education licensure:

- SEEC 500 Analysis of Instruction: Early Childhood Education (3)
- SEEC 504 Developmentally Appropriate Practice in the Primary Classroom (3)
- SEEC 535 Family and School Partnerships for Academic Success (3)
- EPS 506 Seminar in Child Behavior (3)
- SEEC 510 The American Preschool Movement (3)
  or
- SEEC 511 Comparative/International Early Childhood Education (3)
- SEEC 521 Educational Diagnosis/Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs (3)
  or
SESE 523 Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education (3)
SEEC 520 Language Arts in Early Childhood Education (3) (old SEEC 530)
SEEC 531 Social Learning in Early Childhood Education (3)
SEEC 532 Young Children’s Exploration of the Physical World (3) (old TLEE 531)
LTRE 516 Emerging Literacy Development (3)
LTLA 537 Acquisition of Spoken and Written Language (3)
LTIC 501 Multicultural Education: Methods and Materials (3) (other course approved by advisor)

Prior to your first clinical experience:
Completion of the NIU Safety Tutorial. A paper copy of your ‘confirmation of successful completion’ must be provided to the Clinical office.
Mandated Reporter. If you already completed a workshop or course, please provide a copy of the completed tutorial or course to the graduate secretary, 162 Gabel Hall, Department of Special and Early Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. In you need to complete a tutorial please start at the NIU clinical office website, http://www.cedu.niu.edu/seed/clinicals/specialEducation/index.shtml
Prior to any clinical or student teaching you must complete a criminal background check through the locations you are assigned by the clinical office.

Clinical experience:
SEEC 582 Preprimary Clinical Experience (1) [Pre K early clinical experience]
SEEC 583 Primary Clinical Experience (2) [Primary grade early clinical experience]
SEEC 585A Preprimary Student Teaching (3-12)
SEEC 585B Primary Student Teaching (3-12)
SEEC 586 Internship (1-9) [Infant/Toddler early clinical experience]

These additional courses are required for the Master’s degree:
One course in Education Research (3)
ETR 519 or ETR 520 or ETR 525 or another course with advisor approval
SEEC 598 Master’s Cumulative Project (3)

In addition to the course work for Initial Licensure, individuals wishing to obtain the Special Education Approval must take:
SESE 526 Working with Families of Young Children with Disabilities
SEEC 522 Curric and Instructional Strategies for the Young Child with Special Needs (3)
SESE 524 Instruct Systems for Educ of Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children with Dis (3)

Prior to student teaching:
Successful completion of the Early Childhood Content Exam (#107), (http://www.il.nesinc.com)
Mandated Reporter. If you already completed a workshop or course, please provide a copy of the information to the graduate secretary, 162 Gabel Hall, Department of Special and Early Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. In you need to complete a tutorial please start at the NIU clinical office website, http://www.cedu.niu.edu/seed/clinicals/specialEducation/index.shtml
Effective Fall 2014. You need to complete a physical exam through the district you are assigned by the Clinical Office. (105 ILCS 5/24-5) (from Ch. 122, par. 24-5) Sec. 24-5. Physical fitness and professional growth.
Please contact the Clinical office (815-753-9034) one year prior to the semester in which you expect to student teach.
Prior to graduation:
- Contact your advisor to determine if all requirements for your Master’s degree have been completed.
- The semester before you plan to graduate complete the Application for Graduation. You can apply using My NIU.

Prior to licensure: Although not required for graduation, the following must be completed prior to licensure.
- Completion of the Teaching Performance Assessment (edTPA). General information may be located at [http://www.niu.edu/edtpa/candidate/index.shtml](http://www.niu.edu/edtpa/candidate/index.shtml)
- Do not apply for your license until you have a Notification pending statement on ELIS. If you apply early you will have to wait for your transcripts to be evaluated by the State. This is taking 6-9 months for each evaluation.

**Early Childhood Education Program Planning Matrix**

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<th>Semester</th>
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<th>Course 1</th>
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Note. Please consult the course rotation. Course rotation may change at the department’s discretion. Please check My NIU and program adviser for updated information.

Plan when you will complete the Content Area Test, Criminal Background Check, TB test, mandated reporter, and Safety Tutorial and when you will apply for student teaching. Applications for student teaching are due ~one calendar year prior to completing your student teaching.

02/16