Master of Science in Education in Special Education  
Specialization in Advanced Special Education Practices  

Early Childhood Special Education course sequence  

Student checklist  

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 3.00 or higher for the last two years of undergraduate 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 of an application fee, official transcripts, required test scores, career goals statement, and letters of recommendation).

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. Now is the time to 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. You should also discuss any life experience and how you may substitute it for any clinical experience if needed.

_____ Now is the time to discuss the procedures for the Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education. If desired.

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 Advanced Special Education Practices (36)

_____ One graduate-level course in foundation of educations (3)

EPS 501 or EPFE 500 or EPFE 510 or EPFE 520 or EPFE 521 or EPFE 530 or another course with adviser approval

_____ SESE 592, Seminar in Special Education (3)

_____ SESE 593, Collaboration in Advanced Special Education Practices (3)

_____ SESE 792, Seminar: Single Subject Research Methodologies in Special Education
This course work in Early Childhood Special Education may used to fulfill the 24 hours additional hours for the degree:

____ 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)

Additional 12 hours of graduate course work are required toward your degree.

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

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

Those interested in Practicum course work in Early Childhood Special Education may add this course to your program

____ SESE 587N, Practicum in Early Childhood Special Education (3)

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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