Master of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education
Students seeking Initial Professional Education License Birth to grade 2

Students seeking admission to this program may take approved courses in the program prior to admission; please contact Leslie Hecht at lbhecht@niu.edu 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. (A complete graduate application includes, a completed application, payment an application fee, official transcripts, career goals statement, and letters of recommendation).

NOTE: Although no longer required for admission to the professional courses it is strongly recommended that you successfully complete the Illinois State Licensure Testing System, Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP), before enter or early in your program. You can find information and a study guide for this test on the ILTS Website. This score will be needed prior to student teaching.

If you completed the ACT+writing or SAT you may substitute the scores in for the TAP. If you choose this option must submit the scores to the State as soon as possible but prior to student teaching (the deadline for the listing of the scores on the State website will be published by the department). If you choose this option it is your responsibility to verify the scores are listed in your ELIS account. More Information.

Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Special and Early Education (SEED) for your licensure file.

Once you have been admitted:

_____ Accept your admission using My NIU. My NIU Job Aids are available online.
_____ 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. 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.
_____ Clinical experience, if needed. Please telephone the Clinical office (815-753-9034) 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 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)
____ SEEC 531 Social Learning in Early Childhood Education (3)
____ SEEC 532 Young Children’s Exploration of the Physical World (3)
____ SEEC 533 Mathematics and Science for Young Children (3)
____ 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 visit the SEED Student Resources page and locate the materials under the Clinicals section.
____ 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) [PreK early clinical experience]
____ SEEC 583 Primary Clinical Experience (2) [Primary grade early clinical experience]
____ SEEC 585A Preprimary Student Teaching (3)
____ SEEC 585B Primary Student Teaching (3)
____ SEEC 586 Internship (1-9) [Infant/Toddler early clinical experience]

This content knowledge is required for licensure:

   Biology
   Physical Science
   Earth and Space Science
   History
   Geography
   Civics and Gov’t
   Economic

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)
or
   SESE 524 Instruct Systems for Educ of Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children with Dis (3)
Prior to student teaching:

_____ Please contact the Clinical office (815-753-9034) one year prior to the semester in which you expect to student teach.

_____ Successful completion of the **Illinois State Licensure Testing System**, Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP). You can find information and a study guide for this test on the [ILTS Website](https://ilts.illinois.gov). This score will be needed prior to student teaching.

If you completed the ACT+writing or SAT you may substitute the scores in for the TAP. If you choose this option must submit the scores to the State as soon as possible but prior to student teaching (the deadline for the listing of the scores on the State website will be published by the department). If you choose this option it is your responsibility to verify the scores are listed in your ELIS account. More Information.

Please provide a **copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary** in the Department of Special and Early Education (SEED) for your licensure file.

_____ Successful completion of the Early Childhood Content Exam (#206 or 107), located on the [ILTS Website](https://ilts.illinois.gov). Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Teaching and Learning, NIU, DeKalb IL 60115.

The [NIU Safety Tutorial](https://safety.niu.edu/). 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 visit the SEED [Student Resources](https://www.niu.edu/studentresources/) page and locate the materials under the Clinicals section.

Prior to any clinical or student teaching you must complete a criminal background check through the locations you are assigned by the clinical office.

These items may be required by the district you are placed.

_____ A Current TB card on file with the district you are assigned by the Clinical Office.

_____ Criminal background check. You need to complete this through the district you are assigned by the Clinical Office.

_____ You may need to complete a physical exam for the district you are assigned by the Clinical Office.

_____ You must also attend the university-wide Student Teacher Kickoff Meeting and meetings with your clinical supervisor the Friday prior to beginning student teaching. The exact date will be announced by the [University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation](https://www.niu.edu/educatorlicensure/)

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 is located within the [University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation](https://www.niu.edu/educatorlicensure/) website.

_____ 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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*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.

12/18