

# EDUCATION, BS: EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) program is available for those interested in teaching young children from birth to age 8 (through third grade) in a variety of early care/education and school programs. Students are admitted to the major immediately in the first year or upon transfer to UWM, and it is possible to complete the program in four years. Students who satisfactorily complete the program requirements will be highly-qualified to teach in early childhood settings. Those who wish to acquire a State of Wisconsin ECE teaching license can complete the state-mandated assessments through the program. Additionally program students can elect to attain add-on certification in ECE and English as a Second Language (ESL) or Bilingual Education. All program students will be prepared to teach culturally and linguistically diverse children. The program provides real-world experiences in a cross-section of sites where future employment opportunities exist, including public and charter primary schools; Head Start; and preschools and other community-based educational settings.

## Requirements

### General Education Requirements (GERs)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's degree. Some of the requirements of your program may fulfill the campus GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

### Program Core

A grade of C or better must be earned in all professional education courses and sequenced CURRINS courses.

Code	Title	Credits
<i>Choose one:</i> 3		
ENGLISH 201	Strategies for Academic Writing (GER-OWCB)	3
CURRINS 234	Teachers as Writers (GER-OWCB)	3
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I (GER-QLA)	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II (GER-QLB)	3
<i>Choose one:</i> <sup>1</sup> 3		
ANTHRO 213	American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin (GER-CD, SS)	3
ENGLISH 276	Introduction to American Indian Literature: (GER-CD, HU)	3
AIS 203	Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past (GER-CD, SS)	3
HIST 263	North American Indian History Since 1887 (GER-CD, SS)	3
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking (GER-HU)	3
Literature Elective (GER-HU)		3
CES 210	Introduction to Conservation and Environmental Science (GER-NS)	3

Earth Science elective (GER-NS or GER-NS+: Aston, Atm Sci, Geog, or Geo Sci)	3-4	
Physical Science elective (GER-NS or GER-NS+: Chem or Physics)	3-4	
<i>Choose one:</i>	3	
HIST 151	American History: 1607 to 1877 (GER-SS)	
HIST 152	American History: 1877 to the Present (GER-SS)	
POL SCI 104	Introduction to American Government and Politics (GER-SS)	
POL SCI 105	State Politics (GER-SS)	
Social Science Elective (GER-SS)	3	
<i>Prior to Semester 4</i>		
CURRINS 140	Field Experience with Families & Communities	1
CURRINS 312	Models and Issues for Early Childhood Education	3
<i>Semester 4</i>		
CURRINS 240	Field Experience with Dual Language Learners	2
CURRINS 501	Language Acquisition for Children of Diverse Backgrounds	3
<i>Semester 5</i>		
CURRINS 302	Curriculum Design in Early Childhood	3
CURRINS 340	Field Experience in Preschool and Kindergarten Classrooms	2
CURRINS 502	Emergent Literacy and Bilingualism in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
CURRINS 534	Instructional Strategies in Early Childhood Education	3
<i>Semester 6</i>		
CURRINS 440	Field Experience in the Primary Grades	2
CURRINS 504	Methods for Bilingualism and Language Arts in Primary Grades	3
<i>Semester 7</i>		
CURRINS 338	Teaching of Science in Early Childhood	3
CURRINS 540	Advanced Field Experience in Early Childhood Education	3-6
CURRINS 541	Principles and Methods of Teaching ESL	3
<b>Total Credits</b>	<b>67-72</b>	

<sup>1</sup> Non-Western History or Contemporary Culture and Minority Group Relations (Act 31) statutory requirements can both be met by taking one class.

### Professional Requirements

A grade of C or better must be earned in all professional education courses and sequenced CURRINS courses.

Code	Title	Credits
CURRINS 301	Infants and Toddlers: Curriculum and Teaching	3
CURRINS 323	Teaching of Social Studies:	3
CURRINS 511	Curriculum and Guidance for Social-Emotional Learning	3

CURRINS 512	Reflective Practice in Early Childhood Teaching and Learning	3
CURRINS 520	Developing Mathematical Thinking in Young Children	3
CURRINS/EXCEDUC 612	Collaborations for Teachers with Families, Schools, and Communities	3
CURRINS 651	Literature for the Young Child	3
ART ED 130	Multicultural Art and Visual Learning in Elementary Education (GER- A, CD)	3
MUS ED 260	Making Music Connections with Children	3
ED POL 375	Cultural Foundations of Education	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3
ED PSY/EXCEDUC 613	Infant and Early Childhood Assessment	3
EXCEDUC 630	Survey of EC Intervention: Young Children with Special Needs, Families	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>39</b>

## Semester 8: Program Completion and Certification Options

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Option 1: Education Degree, Early Childhood Education</b>		
CURRINS 540	Advanced Field Experience in Early Childhood Education	6
Select electives as needed to reach 120 credits (see an advisor for appropriate options)		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>6</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Option 2: Education Degree, Early Childhood Education plus Early Childhood Certification</b>		
CURRINS 601	Early Childhood Seminar in Student Teaching	3
CURRINS 640	Student Teaching in Early Childhood	12
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Option 3: Education Degree in Early Childhood plus Early Childhood and English as a Second Language Certifications</b>		
CURRINS 601	Early Childhood Seminar in Student Teaching	3
CURRINS 640	Student Teaching in Early Childhood	9
CURRINS 443	Pre-Student Teaching in English as a Second Language Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Option 4: Education Degree in Early Childhood plus Early Childhood and Bilingual Certifications</b>		
CURRINS 601	Early Childhood Seminar in Student Teaching	3
CURRINS 640	Student Teaching in Early Childhood	9
CURRINS 442	Student Teaching in Bilingual Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Option 5: Education Degree in Early Childhood plus Early Childhood, English as a Second Language, and Bilingual Certifications</b>		
CURRINS 601	Early Childhood Seminar in Student Teaching	3
CURRINS 640	Student Teaching in Early Childhood	6
CURRINS 442	Student Teaching in Bilingual Education	3
CURRINS 443	Pre-Student Teaching in English as a Second Language Education	3
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>15</b>

## Program Benchmarks (p. 2)

### Additional Requirements for Graduation:

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on all UWM and transfer courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on professional education courses
- Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 120 credits
- Completion of the last year of coursework (30 credits) in residence at UWM
- Successful completion of a pedagogical knowledge assessment is required for certification

## Benchmarks

Students must meet benchmarks at several points during the program and prior to student teaching. Benchmarks are monitored through tracking systems and advising. A student will be restricted from moving forward in the program if the benchmarks are not completed.

### 30 Credit Benchmarks

Reviewed with your advisor the semester after completion of 30 credits:

- Mandatory meeting with your advisor
- Completion of ENGLISH 102 with a C or better or achieve appropriate score on the English Placement Test
- Completion of MATH 175 with a C or better
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.25 on all UWM and transfer courses

### Admission to Certification Benchmarks

Note: Students who are not pursuing certification should continue meeting with their advisors but do not submit the Admission to Certification form.

Reviewed with your advisor the semester after completion of CURRINS 240 and CURRINS 501:

- Mandatory meeting with your advisor
- Completion of 30 Credit Benchmarks
- Completion of CURRINS 240 and CURRINS 501 with a C or better
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.5 on all UWM and transfer courses
- Submit Admission for Certification form
  - If also pursuing ESL certification, take the Praxis Subject Assessment: Teaching English to Speakers of Other Languages #5362. Passing score is 149.

### CURRINS 540 Benchmarks

Reviewed with your advisor the semester after completion of CURRINS 340 and CURRINS 502:

**Non-certification track:**

- Mandatory meeting with your advisor
- Mandatory meeting with program director to discuss final field options

**Certification track:**

- Mandatory meeting with your advisor
- Request student teaching placement: <https://uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/>

**For ESL Certification:**

- Successfully complete the PRAXIS Subject Assessment Exam #5362: Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, with a passing score of 149 or higher.

**For Bilingual Certification:**

- Successfully complete the Language Proficiency Requirement: A minimum score of Advanced-Low on the ACTFL OPI. See your advisor for details.

**Content Knowledge Requirement Benchmarks (for certification only)**

Reviewed with your advisor the semester after completion of CURRINS 440 and CURRINS 504

- Mandatory meeting with your advisor
- Completion of CURRINS 440 and CURRINS 504 with a C or better
- Minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.75 on all UWM and transfer courses
- Elementary Education Content Knowledge Exam #5018 with a passing score of 157 or higher –OR– minimum GPA of 3.0 in Early Childhood Education Content Concentration Courses. See ECE Content Concentration Courses below:

Code	Title	Credits
ENGLISH 102	College Writing and Research	3
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II	3
CURRINS 234 or ENGLISH 201	Teachers as Writers Strategies for Academic Writing	3
CURRINS 323	Teaching of Social Studies:	3
CURRINS 338	Teaching of Science in Early Childhood	3
CURRINS 502	Emergent Literacy and Biliteracy in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
CURRINS 504	Methods for Biliteracy and Language Arts in Primary Grades	3
CURRINS 520	Developing Mathematical Thinking in Young Children	3

**Student Teaching Benchmarks (for certification only)**

Prior to student teaching you must complete a midpoint eportfolio and attend a pre-student teaching orientation.

Reviewed with your advisor the semester prior to student teaching:

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on all UWM and transfer courses
- Removal of all F grades in ECE program courses
- Removal of all I (Incomplete) grades in courses
- C or better in professional education and CurrIns sequenced courses
- Attempt the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test (WIFoRT)
- Successfully complete:
  - Content Knowledge Requirement Benchmarks
  - For ESL: PRAXIS Subject Assessment Exam #5362: Teaching of English to Speakers of Other Languages, with a passing score of 149 or higher
  - For Bilingual: Language Proficiency Requirement: A minimum score of Advanced-Low on the ACTFL OPI. See your advisor for details.

**Graduation Benchmarks (must be met to be approved for graduation)**

Reviewed during the student teaching semester:

- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on all UWM and transfer courses
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 on all professional education courses
- Satisfactory completion of a minimum of 120 credits
- Completion of the last year of coursework (30 credits) in residence at UWM

**Certification majors only:**

- Successfully pass the Wisconsin Foundations of Reading Test (WIFoRT) with a score of 240 or higher
- Successful completion of a pedagogical knowledge assessment is required for certification.

**Undergraduate Advising**

Our purpose is to provide collaborative, mentoring relationships which promote educational, career, and professional development. We value a student-centered, holistic, and ethical approach to advising based on strong partnerships with students, faculty and staff, and the larger campus community. We are committed to creating a respectful and supportive environment. We encourage students to be self-reliant through informed decisions and choices based upon dissemination of accurate information. We value our own continuous professional development to enhance the quality of the advising experience.

**How to Prepare for an Advising Meeting**

- Review your Advisement Report in PAWS (<http://uwm.edu/registrar/academic-unit-services/paws-academic-advisement/>).
- Come prepared with questions or topics for discussion.
- Make a list of courses you think you should take.
- Investigate opportunities to prepare for the job you want.
- Keep a record of your academic progress.
- Understand you are ultimately responsible for creating your educational, life, and career plans.
- Maintain honest and open communication with your advisor.
- Take responsibility for choices you make as a student and member of the UW-Milwaukee community.

**Scheduling an Appointment**

Office of Student Services  
Enderis Hall, Room 209

(414) 229-4721  
soeinfo@uwm.edu

## Graduate Advising

If you are a School of Education graduate student, you may schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor by contacting your faculty advisor directly. Faculty contact information can be found in the People Directory (<https://uwm.edu/education/people/>). Your faculty advisor will be listed in your PAWS account.

## Honors in the Department of Teaching and Learning

Departmental Honors are granted to students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester.

## College of Community Engagement and Professions Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

## Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

## Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

## Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.