

# EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION, BS: EARLY CHILDHOOD

The Early Childhood Special Education major leads to a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Education. Upon completion, students will be eligible to apply for a Cross-Categorical Special Education Teaching License from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for ages birth to eight, grades birth-3rd. Special Education teachers who specialize in early childhood are currently in high demand, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## 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

Code	Title	Credits
Choose one:		3
ENGLISH 201	Strategies for Academic Writing (GER-OWCB)	
ENGLISH 205	Business Writing (GER-OWCB)	
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I (GER-QLA)	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II (GER-QLB)	3
Choose one: <sup>1</sup>		3
ANTHRO 213	American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin (GER-CD, SS)	
ENGLISH 276	Introduction to American Indian Literature: (GER-CD, HU)	
AIS 203	Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past (GER-CD, SS)	
HIST 263	North American Indian History Since 1887 (GER-CD, SS)	
ART ED 130	Multicultural Art and Visual Learning in Elementary Education (GER-A, CD)	3
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking (GER-HU)	3
GER Literature elective (Fulfills 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
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30-32</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

Code	Title	Credits
<i>During Year 1</i>		
CURRINS 140	Field Experience with Families & Communities	1
CURRINS 312	Models and Issues for Early Childhood Education	3
<i>Semester 3</i>		
CURRINS 240	Field Experience with Dual Language Learners	2
CURRINS 501	Language Acquisition for Children of Diverse Backgrounds	3
<i>Semester 4</i>		
CURRINS 302	Curriculum Design in Early Childhood	3
CURRINS 340	Field Experience in Preschool and Kindergarten Classrooms	2
or CURRINS 440	Field Experience in the Primary Grades	
CURRINS 502	Emergent Literacy and Bilinguality in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
<i>Semester 5</i>		
EXCEDUC 569	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Preschool	3
EXCEDUC 648	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Preschool	3
CURRINS 330	Teaching of Mathematics 1	3
<i>Semester 6</i>		
EXCEDUC 570	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Primary	3
EXCEDUC 649	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Primary	3
ED PSY/EXCEDUC 613	Infant and Early Childhood Assessment	3
CURRINS 504	Methods for Bilinguality and Language Arts in Primary Grades	3
<i>Semester 7</i>		
EXCEDUC 568	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Birth to Three	3
EXCEDUC 647	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: 0 to 3 Yrs	3
EXCEDUC 682	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Special Education	3
<i>Semester 8</i>		
EXCEDUC 481	Student Teaching with Students Having Early Childhood Exceptional Ed Needs	12
<b>Highly recommended:</b>		
CURRINS/EXCEDUC 376	Understanding and Developing the edTPA	
<i>Other Required Professional Courses</i>		
MUS ED 260	Making Music Connections with Children	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3
EXCEDUC 630	Survey of EC Intervention: Young Children with Special Needs, Families	3
CURRINS/EXCEDUC 612	Collaborations for Teachers with Families, Schools, and Communities	3

**Electives**

Select electives to ensure the minimum 120 credits required for graduation

**Total Credits** 71

**Exceptional Education, Early Childhood Submajor Completion Requirements**

- Completion of program requirements;
- Completion of university GER;
- Completion of a minimum of 120 credits;
- Completion of the last year of coursework (30 credits) in residence at UWM;
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in UWM and transfer credits; and
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in professional coursework

See your advisor for additional requirements for certification.

**Post-baccalaureate Program**

(Under revision; please see an advisor for information.)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Year 1 - Summer</b>		
CURRINS 302	Curriculum Design in Early Childhood	3
EXCEDUC 630	Survey of EC Intervention: Young Children with Special Needs, Families	3
<b>Year 1 - Fall</b>		
EXCEDUC 569	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Preschool	3
EXCEDUC 648	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Preschool	3
CURRINS 502	Emergent Literacy and Biliteracy in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
<b>Year 1 - Spring</b>		
CURRINS 504	Methods for Biliteracy and Language Arts in Primary Grades	3
EXCEDUC 570	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Primary	3
EXCEDUC 649	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Primary	3
<b>Year 2 - Summer</b>		
EXCEDUC 568	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Birth to Three	3
EXCEDUC 647	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: 0 to 3 Yrs	3
<b>Year 2 - Fall</b>		
EXCEDUC 682	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Special Education	3
CURRINS 330	Teaching of Mathematics 1	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3
or ED PSY 640	Human Development: Theory and Research	
<b>Year 2 - Spring</b>		
EXCEDUC 652	Developmental Evaluation of Young Children with Disabilities	3
EXCEDUC 651	Working With Families in Urban Communities	3
<b>Other Teaching Experience Requirements</b>		

EXCEDUC 481	Student Teaching with Students Having Early Childhood Exceptional Ed Needs	3
or EXCEDUC 776	Fieldwork with Students Having Early Childhood-Exceptional Education Needs	
CURRINS 400	Field Work in Curriculum and Instruction:	1-6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>49-54</b>

**Advance to Major****Admission to Program**

See academic advisor.

**Benchmarks****Student Teaching**

Students must complete paperwork in order to be assigned a student teaching placement. To determine your deadline (February or April), visit the Office of Clinical Experiences website at [uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/](http://uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/) (<http://uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/>).

**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](mailto: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.