Master of Education in Early Childhood Special Education

The MEd in Early Childhood Special Education encompasses theory, research and practice relating to children from birth to 5 years of age who experience developmental delays and disabilities. In addition to the degree, this program leads to an institutional recommendation for initial teacher certification or endorsement in Early Childhood Special Education-Birth to Five on an existing certificate from the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED).

Admission Requirements

- Satisfy the Admission Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/academicpoliciesprocesses/admissions/graduate) and the College of Education MEd Admission Requirements (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/coe/medrequirementstext).
- Provide transcripts documenting a GPA of 3.00 in most recent 30 credits.
- Submit a resume documenting experience in early childhood special education, early childhood education or a related field. Students without the experience may be required to take additional coursework and enter the program on provisional admission.
- Submit a goal statement on career goals and how they relate to the MEd program.
- Submit three letters of recommendation or rating forms from professional references, including one from a supervisor.
- Participate in an interview if requested by the department.
- Submit copies of applicable licenses, certificates or other professional credentials.
- Successfully complete the Praxis I: Pre-Professional Skills Test (PPST).

Background Check Requirements

See College of Education Field Placements (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/coe/#fieldplacementtext).

Graduation Requirements

- Satisfy the General University Requirements for Graduate Degrees (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/degerequirements).
- Satisfy the College of Education MEd Graduation Requirements (http://catalog.uaa.alaska.edu/graduateprograms/coe/medrequirementstext).
- Complete the program requirements below.

Program Requirements

This program includes courses delivered by distance. Admitted students must have the technological knowledge and skills, and access to equipment to engage in distance learning.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Code</th>
<th>Title</th>
<th>Credits</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EDRS A660</td>
<td>Fundamentals of Research in Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDRS A661</td>
<td>Data-Informed Instruction and Decision Making</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>or EDRS A662</td>
<td>Action Research in Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDRS A664</td>
<td>Developing and Writing Literature Reviews</td>
<td>2</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDSE A474</td>
<td>Special Children from Birth Through Five</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDSE A610Y</td>
<td>Assessment of Infants &amp; Toddlers in Early Childhood Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDSE A622Y</td>
<td>Strategies: Infant &amp; Toddler Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDSE A633</td>
<td>Autism: Communication and Social Disorders</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDSE A674</td>
<td>Family Partnerships in Early Childhood Special Education</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>EDSE A695Y</td>
<td>Advanced Internship: Early Childhood Special Education</td>
<td>6</td>
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</tbody>
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Electives by advisement 9

Total Credits 38

Complete a portfolio documenting attainment of Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) standards.

A total of 36 credits is required for the degree.

Alaska Certification Note

Prior to receiving an institutional recommendation for initial teacher certification, candidates must:

1. Pass the Praxis I or other test approved by the Alaska Department of Education and Early Development (EED) at the level established by EED.
2. Successfully complete 3 credits of multicultural education/cross-cultural communication and 3 credits of Alaska studies from the state’s approved list.
3. Provide documentation of appropriate field experience in a public school setting.

Also, prior to advancing to the professional certificate, EED requires passing scores on the Praxis II examination for elementary teachers. EED may have additional requirements for certification/endorsement. For more information see the EED website (http://www.eed.state.ak.us).

Program Student Learning Outcomes

Student outcomes for the program are based on the Council for Exceptional Children (CEC) standards (https://www.cec.sped.org/
Standards/Special-Educator-Professional-Preparation-Standards) and the Division of Early Childhood Special Education standards (http://www.dec-sped.org).

Students who complete this program will be able to:

- Apply legal and ethical policies that affect young children with developmental delays and disabilities, families, and programs for young children.
- Use intervention strategies with young children having developmental delays and disabilities and their families that affirm and respect family, cultural, and linguistic diversity.
- Develop and apply instructional practices based on knowledge of the child, family, community, and the curriculum.
- Design, implement, and evaluate environments to ensure developmental and functional appropriateness.
- Assess the development and learning of young children with developmental delays and disabilities and use that information to direct intervention.
- Critically analyze and apply principles of research in the area of early childhood special education.