

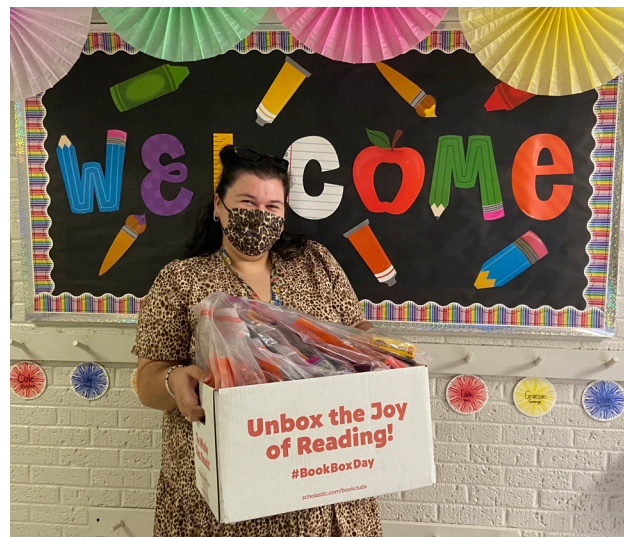


MASTER OF EDUCATION

Early Childhood Education (547)

Northwestern State University (NSU) is proud to offer the only M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education program in the state of Louisiana. This advanced program builds on content that certified teachers mastered at the undergraduate level to facilitate their work with young children, their families, and their communities. The degree program is comprised of Education courses and a Practicum experience that address the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards, and the program involves advanced candidates in strengthening their knowledge, skills, and dispositions relating to working with children from birth to eight years. It is nationally approved by NAEYC, a specialized professional association recognized by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). Furthermore, the program aligns with the Unit's Conceptual Framework. Through the completion of coursework, students engage in critical and creative thinking, responsibility taking, decision making, and problem solving.

The program seeks to prepare teachers of young children for real classrooms in the real world. Students are consistently involved in reviewing and critiquing current peer-reviewed Early Childhood research, analyzing best practices for teaching young children, designing and implementing developmentally appropriate activities for their classrooms, and assessing and documenting their students' achievement. Graduate students also learn to plan and evaluate child-centered emergent curricula and design environments that promote academic, social-emotional, cognitive, and physical growth. They work both independently and cooperatively to gain awareness of programs that focus on children's needs and interests, such as the Project Approach and the Reggio Emilia Approach. Finally, they engage in problem-solving and brainstorming solutions for problems that often arise in today's classrooms, and they design activities that promote family involvement.



The following courses are taken by all candidates seeking the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education at Northwestern State University (all courses are available online):

ECED 5010	Advanced Child Development (Internet Course offered each Spring)
or	
ECED 5510	Appropriate Practices for Early Childhood Development and Diversity (Birth to Eight) (Internet Course offered each Spring)
ECED 5520	Curriculum and Spaces for Infants and Toddlers (Internet Course offered each Fall)
ECED 5530	Positive Relationships with Children, Families, and Communities (Internet Course offered each Fall)
ECED 5540	Trends and Issues in Contemporary Early Childhood Programs (Internet Course offered Spring in odd years)
ECED 5550	Early Childhood Administration and Ethics (Internet Course offered Spring in even years)
ECED 5560	Early Childhood Learning Space Design (Internet Course offered each Summer)
ECED 5570*	Early Childhood Curriculum and Standards (Internet Course offered each Summer)
ECED 5580*	Early Childhood Practicum: Performance Based Assessment and Documentation (Internet Course offered each Summer)
EDCI 5020	Curriculum Development for School Improvement (Internet Course offered every semester)
EDCI 5030	Instructional Improvement and Assessment (Internet Course offered every semester)
EDUC 5840	Research Based Decision-Making in Education (Internet Course offered every semester; must have at least 12 hours)
EDUC 5850	Action Research for School Improvement
or	
EDUC 5980	Thesis

* These two courses are taken concurrently.

Add-on Certification

Students who already hold Elementary certification can add on the Early Childhood grades by accumulating 12 hours of Early Childhood coursework. Suggested courses include ECED 5560, ECED 5570, ECED 5580, and RDG 5020, all of which are offered online each summer.

Program Admission

For those seeking admission to the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education program, please submit the following to NSU's Graduate School:

- (1) an application for admission (<https://graduateschool.nsula.edu>),
- (2) documentation of a teaching license,
- (3) official transcript(s) of undergraduate work or degree earned, and
- (4) two letters of recommendation (forms available on the NSU Graduate School website).



NORTHWESTERN STATE
UNIVERSITY OF LOUISIANA

FOR MORE INFORMATION

Candidates must be admitted to Northwestern State Graduate School.

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QUESTIONS?

University Recruiting
318-357-4503 • recruiting@nsula.edu

Admissions
318-357-4078 • applications@nsula.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarships
318-357-5961 • nsufinaid@nsula.edu

ACCREDITATION: Northwestern State University is accredited by the Commission of the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools (1866 Southern Lane, Decatur, Georgia, Telephone number 404-679-4501) to award associate, baccalaureate, master's, specialist's, and doctoral degrees.

Northwestern's College of Education and Human Development has been continuously accredited by the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE) since its initial accreditation in 1954. All teacher and other school professional preparation programs are recognized as accredited by the NCATE. This designation describes the professional education unit's conceptual framework and provides evidence which demonstrates that the NCATE six standards are met.

NOTICE OF NONDISCRIMINATION: Northwestern State University does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, gender, religion, sexual orientation, national origin, disability, genetic information, age, pregnancy or parenting status, and veteran or retirement status in its programs and activities and provides equal access to the Boy Scouts and other designated youth groups. The following individuals have been designated to handle inquiries regarding non-discrimination policies (i.e., Title IX): Employees/Potential Employees – Veronica M. Biscoe, EEO Officer (318-357-6359) and Students – Reatha Cox, Dean of Students (318-357-5285). For Americans with Disabilities Act (ADA) concerns, contact the Accessibility and Disability Support Director, Taylor Camidge, at 318-357-5460. Additionally, Northwestern complies with the Jeanne Clery Disclosure of Campus Security Policy & Campus Crime Statistics Act. Information about NSU's campus security and crime statistics can be found at <https://www.nsula.edu/universityaffairs/police/>. Full disclosure statement: <http://universityplanning.nsula.edu/notice-of-non-discrimination>.