



WESTERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

# Early Childhood Education

Department of Curriculum & Instruction, College of Education & Human Services

## Program of Study

Students combine a foundation of general studies with major courses and clinical experiences with children as they complete the Early Childhood Education curriculum. A Bachelor of Science in Elementary Education with an option in Early Childhood Education leads to Illinois teacher certification in programs serving children from birth through third grade.

In addition to in-depth coursework in the major, students gain extensive experience in observing and teaching children in a variety of educational settings, including both preprimary and primary programs. Students' participation and responsibilities in these settings begin in the freshman year and gradually increase through the senior year, culminating in a 16-week student teaching experience under the supervision of experienced teachers.

## Faculty

The faculty members in the Department of Curriculum and Instruction have a strong interest in helping all students develop into skilled, competent, and creative professionals. All faculty have practical teaching experience in public schools. Professors in the department have a doctorate or a terminal degree in their field. Faculty are actively involved in a variety of professional organizations; provide continuing education workshops for teachers; and publish books and articles in state, national, and international journals.

## Scholarships

A number of scholarships are available to academically talented students through the Department of Curriculum and Instruction and the College of Education and Human Services. Additional information about these scholarships can be obtained by visiting our department website at [www.wiu.edu/curriculum](http://www.wiu.edu/curriculum).

## Honors in Elementary Education

To be eligible for the Illinois Centennial Honors College, entering freshmen must have an ACT composite score of at least 28 OR have a 26 or 27 composite ACT and be in the top 15% of their graduating class OR have an ACT composite score of at least 24 and be in the top 10% of their high school graduating class. Transfer students with at least 12 semester hours and up to 59 semester hours of undergraduate courses are admitted with a grade point average of at least 3.3 OR 3.4 for 60 semester hours or more. To find out more, visit [www.wiu.edu/Honors](http://www.wiu.edu/Honors).

General honors seminars in the humanities, sciences, and social sciences provide students with the opportunity to explore key academic issues with distinguished faculty members. Honors students in the Early Childhood Education program enroll in a seminar designed specifically for the major and complete honors projects in their teaching methods courses.

## Student Activities

Students participate in professional groups such as the Student Education Association, Dean's Advisory Council, departmental advisory committees, Blue Key, Mortar Board, and Alpha Upsilon Alpha (Reading Honor Society). Students are involved in the Early Childhood Organization for Students, Western Illinois Reading Council, the PreK-8 Science Update Conference, and science education workshops. Further information about other student activities and organizations that are available to all Western students can be found at <http://osa.wiu.edu>.

HIGHER VALUES IN HIGHER EDUCATION

## Special Opportunities

The Early Childhood Education program is accredited through the National Council for the Accreditation of Teacher Education (NCATE). The faculty in the department are committed to meeting the needs of individual students and communicate with them frequently. Courses and experiences within the Early Childhood Education program prepare preservice teachers to support the development of the whole child, to respond with flexible and professional judgment to the differing needs of children and families, and to actively engage children in their own learning. Students apply the knowledge gained in the college classroom as they complete a variety of field experiences and student teaching. An electronic portfolio is developed during the program that can be used to showcase knowledge and skills in a job interview.

The department's "Outstanding Preservice Teaching Award" recognizes students who have demonstrated excellence in their academic coursework and their teaching experiences.

## After College

Nationwide studies indicate selected teacher shortages in some areas and suggest that job opportunities will increase. Career opportunities include positions as prekindergarten teachers, teachers of preschool children with disabilities, early intervention specialists, K-3 elementary teachers, and teachers or owners/directors of childcare centers. After teaching in the classroom several years, some teachers take additional coursework to become qualified to serve as reading specialists, principals, curriculum directors, and superintendents.

## For More Information

Specific questions can be addressed to the department chair by phoning (309) 298-1961 or e-mailing CJ-Dooley@wiu.edu. Additional information can also be found on the department website at [www.wiu.edu/curriculum](http://www.wiu.edu/curriculum).

## For Your General Outlook

A typical four-year program of study is outlined below:

### Early Childhood Education Sequence of Courses

Eng 180+ Hist 105 or 106 Math 106+ Lab Sci	College Writing I American History Math for Elem Teachers (Biology) Human Well-Being	(3) (3) (3) (4)** (2-3)	Art 180 Math 206+ Lab Sci Geog 110 PolS 122 ECh 271+	Intro to Art Geom for Elem Teachers (Physical) World Regional Geography Am. Government & Politics Early Childhood Education	(3) (3) (3)** (3) (3) (3)	<b>Freshman Year</b> • Complete 6 st Writing Intensive courses during first 3 semesters • Complete Eng 180 & Math 106 with grade of "C" or better
Comm 241+ Eng 280+ ECh 273+ EIS 302+ IDT 285	Multicultural Intro Public Speaking College Writing II Understanding Young Child Multicult/Soc Foundations Tech Stand Pre-Ser Teacher	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	Social Sci Music 190 CSD 312 LLA 311+ ECh 274+ SpEd 310+	(elective) What to Listen for in Music Normal Development Speech/Lang Lit for Young Children Young Child as Learner The Exceptional Individual	(3) (3) (3) (3) (3) (3)	<b>Sophomore Year</b> • Complete Eng 280, Math 206 & Comm 241 with grade of "C" or better • Must be fully accepted to Teacher Education Program by end of sophomore year
Successfully pass State Basic Skills Test			Reflective Paper #1			
IDT 278 Kin 360+	Assistive Tech Student/Sp Needs Meth of Elem Phys Ed	(1) (2)		Human Well-Being	(1)	<b>Junior Year</b> • Submit: • Student Teaching Application • Graduation Application
<i>PREPRIMARY CURRICULUM &amp; METHODS</i>			<i>PRIMARY CURRICULUM &amp; METHODS</i>			
*ECh 351+ *ECh 353+ *Rdg 382+ *ECh 355+ *ECh 380+	Sci/Math Young Child Method Teach SS/Creative Exp Literacy Development Org/Admin of Prim Learn Enviro Field Work in Early Child Ed	(4) (4) (3) (2) (1)	*ScEd 352+ *SsEd 354+ *Rdg 383+ *ECh 356+ *Math 362+ *ECh 381+	Method Teach Sci in Prim Grades Method Teach SS in Prim Grades Literacy Instr in Early Grades Learning Enviro Kdg-Prim Grades Teaching Math in Prim Grade Field Work in Early Child Ed II	(3) (3) (3) (2) (3) (1)	
*ECh 474+ *C&I 476+ *Rdg 432+ *ECh 480+	Early Childhood Assessment Parent/Community Involvement Intro Corrective Rdg in Early Child Field Work Early Child Ed III	(3) (3) (3) (3)	*Eled 410	*Student Teaching Senior Seminar Early Childhood	(16) (1)	<b>Senior Year</b>
Successfully pass Illinois Certification Teaching System – Subject Matter Test			Reflective Paper #2 Successfully pass Illinois Certification Teaching System – Assessment of Professional Teaching Test			

\*Must be taken concurrently in this semester

+Grade of "C" or higher required

\*\*Only one course must be a lab course, but two labs are recommended

Note: This plan is subject to successful completion of prerequisites and/or availability of courses.

# www.wiu.edu/curriculum

## Department of Curriculum & Instruction

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