



The M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education

Student Information Booklet Fall 2009

**Department of Instruction & Teacher Education
College of Education
University of South Carolina
Columbia, South Carolina 29208
(803) 777-5129**

Program Objectives

The Master of Education degree (M.Ed.) in Early Childhood Education is designed to provide advanced professional studies in graduate level coursework for persons who currently hold teacher certification or other professionals who are committed to excellence in early childhood education. This is an advanced degree program in early childhood education. **This degree does not lead to initial teacher certification.**

Program Goals

The major goal of the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education is to develop students' knowledge, skills and dispositions so that they are prepared to assume appropriate leadership roles as collaborative educational leaders.

Specific goals for individual courses are identified in their syllabi. The program provides experiences for graduates to become proficient in each of the Advanced Standards and demonstrate competency in each of Professional Tools identified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children (2003).

These are the Advanced Standards and Essential Tools addressed by the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education:

Standards

Standard 1: Promoting child development and learning

Standard 2: Building family and community relationships

Standard 3: Observing, documenting, and assessing to support young children and families

Standard 4: Teaching and learning

Standard 5: Growing as a professional

Tools

Tool 1: Cultural competence

Tool 2: Knowledge and application of ethical principles

Tool 3: Communication skills

Tool 4: Mastery of relevant theory and research

Tool 5: Skills in identifying and using professional resources

Tool 6: Inquiry skills and knowledge of research methods

Tool 7: Skills in collaborating, teaching and mentoring

Tool 8: Advocacy skills

Tool 9: Leadership skills

Admission Procedures

Applications for admission to the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education are processed through the University of South Carolina Graduate School. The Graduate School application is available at <http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>.

Admission requirements are designed to ensure that M.Ed. students have the aptitude and dispositions to successfully complete this rigorous course of graduate study. Decisions regarding admission are based on the student's total professional profile including evidence of scholarly potential as indicated by:

- a bachelor's degree or equivalent from an accredited graduate program in Early Childhood Education or a related field.
- a grade point average of 3.0 or above in undergraduate studies.
- a grade point average of 3.5 in previous graduate coursework (if applicable).
- two supportive professional or academic references.
- successful experience in early childhood or a related field.
- acceptable Graduate Record Examination scores (expected minimum of at least 350 in both verbal and quantitative) OR Miller Analogies Test score (expected minimum of 380).

Applications to the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education are considered on a rolling basis. That is, students' applications are reviewed when they are received and students are notified soon after the Admissions Committee has made its decision.

Advisement

Upon admission to the M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education, each student is assigned a faculty advisor. The student is responsible for arranging a meeting with his/her advisor to design their Program of Study. The Program of Study form is available by accessing the “Masters Program of Study” in the Graduate School Forms Library accessed from the Graduate School home page: <http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>

Curriculum

The M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education is composed of: 1) Core Required Courses; 2) Diversity Course; 3) Research, Measurement, or Assessment Course; 4) Technology Course; 5) Related Study Courses, and 6) the Required Final Seminar. A minimum of 36 semester hours of graduate study is required to complete the degree. The M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education Program of Study is outlined below. Complete course descriptions are in the USC Graduate Bulletin accessed from the Graduate School home page: <http://www.gradschool.sc.edu/>

Program of Study Deadline

Students must file their Program of Study with the Graduate School no later than 1 year (four terms) after being fully admitted. Further registration will be blocked if the Program of Study is not on file by that time.

Assessment

Continual assessment occurs in all courses taken as a part of the M.Ed. program. Students are expected to successfully complete all Key Assessments that evaluate degree candidates' knowledge and skill in terms of NAEYC's Advanced Standards and their competency in each of Professional Tools identified by the National Association for the Education of Young Children.

A comprehensive examination is administered as part of EDEC 797: Seminar in Early Childhood Education. It is a summative evaluation to document students' attainment of program goals. EDEC 797 and the comprehensive examination is to be taken in the last 12 semester hours of students' coursework.

Retention

Students must maintain a grade point average of 3.0 to remain in good standing. Students should see the USC Graduate Bulletin for additional requisites for maintaining good standing in graduate school. While enrolled in the core courses of study, writing samples will be evaluated and, where appropriate, students may be required to gain increased competence in their writing skills.

M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education Program

Early Childhood Education Core (21 Semester Hours)

EDEC 608 Parent Involvement in Early Childhood Education.....	3 semester hours
EDEC 740 The Young Child: Applying Theory and Research.....	3 semester hours
EDEC 742 Advanced Study of Early Childhood Curricula.....	3 semester hours
EDEC 750 Play Theory and Early Learning.....	3 semester hours
EDEC 794 Leadership, Advocacy, and Collaboration in Early Childhood	3 semester hours
EDEC 744 Adv. Study of Lang. Dev. Comm. Skills in ECE.....	3 semester hours

Diversity Course (3 Semester Hours) 3 semester hours

EDTE 779 Multicultural Issues in Education

or

EDTE 776 Educating African-American Students

Research Emphasis (3 Semester Hours) 3 semester hours

EDRM 700 Introduction to Research in Education, EDRM 720 Educational Measurement
or other research course approved by advisor

Technology (3 Semester Hours) 3 semester hours

EDEC 795 Technology in Early Childhood Education or EDTE 731 Integration of Technology
and Instruction or a course approved by advisor

Related Study (6 Semester Hours)(Must be pre-approved by the advisor).... 6 semester hours

Final Seminar (3 Semester Hours)

EDEC 797 Seminar in Early Childhood Education..... 3 semester hours

Total Hours **36 semester hours**

Note

No more than 6 semester hours of workshop/institute or professional development courses may be used in this degree program.