Early Childhood Education

College of Education
Department of Educational Studies: Elementary and Early Childhood
328 Armstrong Hall • 507-389-1516
http://ed.mnsu.edu/eeec/

Chair: Marsha Traynor

Ronald Browne, Lillian Duran, Linda Good, Jodi Meyer-Mork, Steven Reuter, Elizabeth Sandell,

The Department of Educational Studies: Elementary and Early Childhood has a major responsibility for providing professional education for early childhood and elementary teachers. The general goals of this program are to develop the dispositions, knowledge, and skills of candidates for licensure; to make available pre-professional clinical experiences in order to introduce students to the total early childhood education context; to provide the direct experience of teaching under supervision; and to develop understanding of developmentally appropriate curriculum design in its theory and process of formulation. Emphasis shall be on the acquiring of knowledge, professional skills and learning environment awareness.

Admission to the Major
1. Completion of 30 credits.
2. “A” or “B” in ENG 101 and CMST 100 or CMST 102.
3. Cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or better

Admission to Professional Education
1. Minimum grade of “B” (ENG 101, CMST 100 or CMST 102)
2. MATH 201; EEC 200 or EEC 201; and EEC 222W
3. Minimum 3.00 cumulative GPA
4. Minimum 40 credits
5. Completion of or registration for Praxis I
6. Successful completion of Writing Assessment Lab and follow-up remedia-
tion

Admission is competitive based on scores determined by rubric.
  a. Recommendation forms focusing on professional dispositions and work
     experiences
  b. Cover letter and resume
  c. Academic record and GPA
  d. Writing assessment lab
  e. Interview

Admission to Blocks. No formal admission, but students will need permission to register for Blocks. Student will be monitored for progress in completing coursework and dispositions.

P/N Grading Policy. With the exception of student teaching, all courses that meet program requirements must be taken for a grade.

CLINICAL EXPERIENCES. A major component of professional education coursework involves clinical experience in area schools and early learning programs. These experiences are sequential in development. Multiple methods of assessment are used to document competencies. These methods include direct observations of teaching activities by public school, community program, and/or university faculty; the use of videotaped lessons and activities for self-assessment; use of logs; participation in on-line activities; and participation in activities reflective of the professional responsibilities of teachers. The successful completion of each clinical experience is necessary for progression into future clinical activities (e.g., student teaching). All clinical placements are initiated by the Office of Clinical and Field Experience.

Background Checks. Students involved in any clinical experience need to undergo a background study (once per academic year) to assess misdemeanor and felony conviction records maintained at the Minnesota Bureau of Criminal Apprehension. This information is provided to centers and districts for their determination of suitability. The Office of Clinical and Field Experience coordinates the background check process.

Admission to Student Teaching: http://ed.mnsu.edu/clinical/teachinginfo/

Coordinator for Admission to Student Teaching: Carol Werhan, Director of Clinical and Field Experience (119 Armstrong Hall)

Student teaching at Minnesota State Mankato is a result-oriented, performance-based 16-week program requiring the demonstration of an acceptable level of teaching performance. Performance is assessed in the areas of planning and preparation, enhancing the learning environment, teaching for student learning, and professionalism. Multiple methods of assessment are used and evidence collected to provide a view of the student teacher’s skills and dispositions. These methods include direct observations of teaching activities by public school and University faculty, the use of videotaped lessons and activities reflective of professional responsibilities of teachers (e.g. parent conferences.). The Director of Clinical and Field Experience facilitates placements for all student teachers in partner districts. Student teachers should not contact schools regarding their placement until directed to do so by the Director of Clinical and Field Experience. Admission to the student teaching experience is contingent upon completion of 95 semester credits, a cumulative grade point average of 2.75, grades of “C” or better for all program requirements, admittance to teacher/professional education, completion of all methods and professional education coursework, completion and validation of formal application materials one semester in advance of student teaching semester (obtain specific dates from 119 Armstrong Hall), attendance at all preliminary student teaching meetings, submission of scores on the PRAXIS I (Reading/Writing/Math) test, recommendation of advisor, agreement of school district administration and cooperating teacher(s), and Director of Clinical and Field Experience, and completion of criminal background check process. Application materials are available in 119 Armstrong Hall or on-line at http://ed.mnsu.edu/clinical/teachinginfo/

Application for Teacher Licensure: http://ed.mnsu.edu/licensure/

Coordinator of Teacher Licensure: Gail Orcutt (118 Armstrong Hall)

The University recommends licensure to a state upon satisfactory completion of a licensure program. However, licensure does not occur automatically through graduation and the awarding of a diploma. Students need to make application for a Minnesota teaching license at the close of the term in which they graduate. The College of Education, 118 Armstrong Hall, coordinates the licensure process. In addition to meeting all program requirements, students must successfully complete the Praxis I (PPST) examination of skills in reading, writing, and mathematics and the Praxis II Pedagogy and Content examinations. Information about Praxis exams is available at: http://ed.mnsu.edu/advising/praxis.html

Minnesota State Law requires that all candidates applying for initial licensure in this state be fingerprinted for national background checks. A conduct review statement will also need to be completed and signed. There is a fee for the criminal background check. There is a fee payable to the State of Minnesota for the issuance of a State of Minnesota teaching license. Please contact Gail Orcutt for questions about the licensure process.

ANGEARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION BS, TEACHING

The Early Childhood Licensure Plan of Study lists general education courses, the professional core support courses, and the professional education courses; it is available in 117 Armstrong Hall.

Required General Education (20 credits)
This option is available for any major.
CDIS 205 Beginning Sign Language (3)
CMST 100 Fundamentals of Communication (3) OR
CMST 102 Public Speaking (3)
EEC 222W Human Relations in a Multicultural Society (3)
ENG 101 Composition (4)
MATH 201 Elements of Mathematics I (3)
PSYC 101 Psychology (4)

http://ed.mnsu.edu/clinical/teachinginfo/

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CPR training. Includes educators' ethical and legal responsibilities related to child abuse. Includes EEC 245 (3) Early Childhood Health Safety and Nutrition Explores child growth and development from prenatal to age eight. Provides the necessary knowledge base and instructional applications for using EEC 225 (2) Technology Applications in Education. GE-1C, GE-7, GE-11 Fall, Spring

COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

EEC 201 (3) Introduction to Early Childhood Education A foundational course for early childhood education majors. Observation in early learning settings, undertech the diversity of early childhood programs, introduction to teaching and early learners. Fall


EEC 225 (2) Technology Applications in Education Provides the necessary knowledge base and instructional applications for using technology in the classroom.

EEC 227 (3) Learning Development in the Early Years Introduction to development theorists who have impacted early childhood education. Explores child growth and development from prenatal to age eight.

EEC 245 (3) Early Childhood Health Safety and Nutrition Health, safety, and nutritional needs of young children (birth - age 8) as well as educators' ethical and legal responsibilities related to child abuse. Includes CPR training.

EEC 311 (3) Creative Arts Methods Methods of young children's visual and performing arts to enhance children's initiative, creativity, and self-esteem while focusing on fine motor development.

EEC 313 (3) Including Young Children with Special Needs Foundational knowledge and early skills in serving young children with disabilities. Includes projects in the community related to observations, interviews, and hands-on service learning with young children, families, and professionals.

EEC 365 (3) Teaching Infants and Toddlers Develop curriculum and design environment for young children at three ages: infant, toddler, three to four year olds. Pre: EEC 201, FCS 301, FCS 303. Coreq: EEC 366 Spring

EEC 366 (1) Infants and Toddlers Field Experience Clinical experiences to accompany EEC 365 Interaction strategies, learning environments, parent communications. Coreq: EEC 365 Spring

EEC 368 (4) Preprimary Methods and Materials Instructional strategies, theories of curriculum and development, integrated curriculum for 3, 4, and 5 year olds. Coreq: EEC 369 Fall, Spring

EEC 369 (1) Preprimary Field Experience Clinical experience to accompany EEC 368. Coreq: EEC 368 Fall, Spring

EEC 412 (3) Kindergarten Methods and Materials Instructional strategies, theories of curriculum and development, integrated curriculum for kindergarten children. Co-req. EEC 413 for early childhood education major only. Fall, Spring

EEC 413 (1) Kindergarten Methods and Materials: Lab Clinical experience to accompany EEC 412. Fall Co-req: EEC 413 for early childhood education majors only.

EEC 422 (3) Emergent Literacy This course explores young children's (birth to age 8) development of emergent literacy skills related to reading, writing, visual representation, speaking, listening, and viewing. The role of parents and early childhood learning environments are included. Observation, assessment, and strategies to promote emergent literacy are discussed. The use of appropriate children's literature is promoted. Fall, Spring

EEC 433 (3) Observation, Screening and Assessment of Young Children Core skills for early childhood teachers to be able to conduct developmental screenings, perform child observations, administer criterion-referenced tests, develop authentic assessments designed for ongoing progress monitoring, and interpret standardized assessments. Red flags for referral to special education included.

EEC 434 (3) Interdisciplinary Teaming: Collaborating with Families and Professionals A theoretical and practical base for conferencing and collaboration with parents of children with special needs and other professionals during the IFSP or IEP team process.

EEC 435 (3) Teacher-Parent Relationships in Education Emphasis on parent-teacher relationships for effective learning of children through the elementary grades. Includes introduction to Early Childhood Family Education. Fall, Spring
**EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION**

**EEC 440 (4) Primary Grade Literacy & Social Studies Methods**
Students will investigate developmentally appropriate reading and literacy curriculum and methodology for primary grade students.
Coreq: EEC 441, EEC 442, EEC 443
Fall

**EEC 441 (1) Primary Grade Field Experience**
Field experience related to the Primary grade methods and materials courses EEC 440 and EEC 442. Students will observe and teach primary-age children. Students will implement developmentally appropriate activities and lessons related to literacy, social studies, mathematics, and science.
Fall

**EEC 442 (4) Primary Grade Mathematics and Science Methods**
Students will investigate developmentally appropriate methods and materials for the teaching of math, science, and social studies in the primary grades. Course will include techniques on how to plan an interdisciplinary approach to teaching math, science.
Coreq: EEC 440, EEC 441, EEC 443
Fall

**EEC 443 (1) Primary Grade Mathematics and Science Lab**
Clinical field experience to accompany EEC 442. Students will observe and teach primary grade children for a minimum of 30 hours in a classroom. Students will plan and implement developmentally appropriate activities/lessons related to math, science.
Coreq: EEC 440, EEC 441, EEC 442
Fall

**EEC 455 (3) Supervision and Leadership of Early Learning Environments**
Facilitation of understanding of supervising staff, program management and leadership in early care; addresses issues and methods for personnel working in public and private settings for young children from birth to age 8.

**EEC 466 (12) Early Childhood Student Teaching (K-3) and Seminar**
Student teaching with young children in a kindergarten/primary grade classroom plus seminar.
Pre: EEC 365
Fall, Spring

**EEC 475 (3-6) Enrichment Experiences Elementary**
Student teaching projects determined jointly by student and advisor.
Pre: EEC 473
Fall, Spring

**EEC 490 (1-3) Workshop**
The workshop format provides teachers and others opportunity to study a specific topic in a shortened, hands-on course.
Variable

**EEC 491 (1-4) In-Service**
Variable

**EEC 495 (2-4) Internship: Early Childhood Family Education**
Principals and practices in Early Childhood/Family Education and programs. On-site experiences are required.
Pre: FCS 483, 488
Variable

**EEC 496 (3-6) Internship**
Provides clinical experiences for pre-service teachers; extends laboratory experiences for those who have completed pre-student teaching experiences.
Pre: Required methods
Variable

**EEC 499 (1-4) Individual Study**
By contract between student and faculty member.
Variable