MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD

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APPLY NOW
OVERVIEW

The master’s program in early childhood education is part of the College of Education, Nursing and Health Professions’ focus on bridging traditional academics with community needs. Through experiential learning and impactful scholarship, students and faculty work collaboratively to reach a common goal, achieving excellence through relevance.

The program prepares teachers to work in public and private schools, childcare centers, and community-based programs with children between birth and age 8. It leads to the Master of Education (MEd) in Early Childhood Education through three distinct paths:

1. An initial certification program for the individual who holds a bachelor’s degree and wishes to prepare for entry into the profession of teaching as a certified early childhood teacher. Students select an endorsement area of birth through kindergarten or nursery-kindergarten through third grade. Certification is integrated birth through kindergarten. Student teaching is required for certification, which will involve a full-day commitment near the end of the program of study.

2. A non-initial certification option for someone who is already a certified teacher or who may desire to teach or already is teaching in the private sector or community programs. While one may not need or desire state certification as an early childhood teacher, he or she could benefit from the curriculum content and graduate level electives to further his or her professional career.

3. A Montessori concentration that combines Association of Montessori International (AMI) teacher training with a graduate degree. The program is a partnership between the University of Hartford and the Montessori Training Center Northeast (MTCNE). This program is for students who are currently enrolled in or have completed within the past five years an AMI teacher-training program. The concentration in Montessori builds on the professional preparation of the Montessori trained teacher to provide him/her with a well-rounded background in all areas of early childhood education. While this is not a certificate program, coursework contributes toward the Connecticut State Teaching Certificate Unique Endorsement #110.
CURRICULUM CONTENT

Central to early childhood education is knowing the individual child in the context of family, school, and community. This knowledge of the child coupled with a developmental focus leads teachers to responsive, differentiated instruction. The ability to work with students with special needs is fully integrated into the curriculum. The goal of this program is to develop early childhood teachers as reflective practitioners who integrate understanding of their content areas, their students, current research, and theories of pedagogy.

An individualized curriculum includes:

» Learning and developmental theories
» Knowledge of curriculum and effective teaching strategies
» Learning about cultural and diverse needs of students
» Integration of technology
» Application of skills in assessment and implementation
» Evaluation of effective educational programs

Most of our students are working and are completing their degrees by enrolling in 1-2 courses for full-time status each fall, spring, and summer session. Courses meet once per week in late afternoon or evening.

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

The admissions review committee considers only complete applications.

The following items are required:

» Application for admission www.hartford.edu/grad-apply
» A non-refundable application fee of $50
» Official transcripts for all collegiate-level course work forwarded to the University of Hartford from the degree-granting institution
» A letter of intent as specified in the application form
» Two letters of recommendation
» Interview with program faculty as listed in the application
» Degree selection sheet
» Applicants seeking teacher certification must provide passing PRAXIS CORE (formally known as Praxis I) scores OR meet the requirements of one of the state board-approved waiver options (see below).

International Applicants

» TOEFL – Official score to be submitted. The University of Hartford test code number is 3436. Visit TOEFL at www.ets.org. Minimum score: 550 paper-based or 80 internet-based. The IELTS is also accepted with a minimum score of 6.5 or higher.

» Guarantor’s Statement – As part of the application, international students must provide a bank statement to ensure adequacy of funds. This statement is also used to issue an I-20 form to students. The Guarantor’s Statement is necessary for obtaining a visa. The cost for international students to study and live at the University of Hartford can be found at www.hartford.edu/graduate/int.aspx

» Transcript evaluation – transcript must be evaluated by the World Evaluation Services. Visit: www.wes.org. The evaluation, at a minimum, should indicate that the student has completed the equivalent of a four-year bachelor’s degree at a U.S. regionally accredited institution. The $50 application fee will be waived to defray the cost of the evaluation.
Classes are designed to meet the needs of adult learners. You may continue to work full-time as you study. Classes generally meet one evening per week in the late afternoon or evening. Final student teaching experiences will require your availability during the day.

**PRAXIS CORE INFORMATION**

**PRAXIS CORE:** The PRAXIS CORE (formally Praxis I) academic skills assessment for prospective teachers is required by the State of Connecticut to ensure that candidates for teacher preparation are competent in reading, writing, and mathematics. Passing scores on the PRAXIS CORE exam are Reading—156, Writing—162, and Mathematics—150. For PRAXIS CORE registration and further information about the PRAXIS CORE exam, visit www.ets.org/praxis and www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/PDF/Cert/guides/assess_for_cert.pdf

**PRAXIS CORE Waiver:** You may obtain a waiver of the PRAXIS CORE exam by submitting an application to the State of Connecticut along with SAT, ACT, or GRE scores. If your scores are high enough, the State will issue a waiver letter. For waiver criteria, an application form, and instructions for submitting your test scores, visit http://www.sde.ct.gov/sde/lib/sde/pdf/cert/praxis/praxisiwaivercriteria.pdf

**DEADLINES AND DATES**

Admission into the early childhood education program can occur for the fall, spring, or summer semesters. The priority filing dates are November 15 for spring and April 15 for summer or fall entry. Applications received after these priority filing dates will be considered on a case-by-case basis, depending upon both the quality of the application and the number of remaining openings in the class. The admissions committee will review complete applications in the order in which they are received.

**COSTS OF ATTENDANCE**

Visit hartford.edu/tuition for current tuition and fees.

**FINANCIAL AID**

**Domestic Financial Aid:**

Financial assistance for graduate and professional students through the Office of Admission and Student Financial Assistance at the University of Hartford is available through the Federal Family Education Loan and supplemental loan programs. Students must meet all eligibility requirements as established by the U.S. Department of Education. The academic year includes summer, fall, and spring.

**Three requirements must be satisfied to be eligible for financial aid:**

» Matriculate into a graduate degree-granting program

» Register for at least six credits in the fall and spring semesters. Summer sessions are offered for those interested in year-round study, but summer term study is not required.

» File the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) for the academic year and meet all eligibility requirements established by the U.S. Department of Education

For more information, call 800.947.4303 or email finaid@hartford.edu
MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD LEADING TO CERTIFICATION*

Birth to Kindergarten or Nursery-Kindergarten to Grade 3

» Professional Education Core [15 credits]
» Early Childhood Education Core [12 or 15 credits]
» Student teaching in a pre-kindergarten or kindergarten inclusive setting [3 credits]

Select One:
—Endorsement: Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed: Birth to Kindergarten [6 or 9 credits]
—Endorsement: Integrated Early Childhood/Special Ed: Nursery-Kindergarten; Early Childhood grades 1 - 3 [6 or 9 credits]

*Also required for certification if not taken at the undergraduate level: EDR 558 Reading and Language Arts through Children’s Literature [3 credits] and courses in Human Growth and Development [15 credits] may be taken from prior study or may be taken concurrently with the required early childhood education program.

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD (NON-CERTIFICATION)

» Required core courses [6 credits]
» Specialization core courses [12 credits]
» Electives [12 credits]

OR the following birth to age three core electives [12 credits]

» EDY 643—Infants and Toddlers: Development and Assessment [3 credits]
» EDY 646—Observation and Assessment in Early Childhood [3 credits]
» EDY 647—Working with Families: The Child, the Home, and Community [3 credits]
» EDR 558—Reading and Language Arts through Children’s Literature [3 credits]

MASTER OF EDUCATION IN EARLY CHILDHOOD WITH MONTESSORI CONCENTRATION

» Offered in partnership with the Montessori Training Center Northeast (MTCNE)
» Early Childhood core courses [18 credits]
» Montessori core courses [15 credits]
The Center for Graduate and Adult Academic Services would be happy to provide more specific information about a degree program or answer your questions. Please contact the office by email at GradStudy@hartford.edu or by phone at 860.768.4371 or 800.945.0712.

To schedule an interview, contact Paige Bray, director of the early childhood education program, at 860.768.4553 or ecegrad@hartford.edu

Information sessions on early childhood education programs are held regularly. Learn more at hartford.edu/enhp/events

Graduate program events are held throughout the year. Open Houses are held in August and January. Learn more at www.hartford.edu/gradevents

Program website: www.hartford.edu/early-childhood-education-masters