



NORTHERN ILLINOIS UNIVERSITY

Department of Special and Early Education

College of Education

Master of Science in Education in Early Childhood Education

Students seeking initial professional education license – birth to grade 2

Students seeking admission to this program may take approved courses in the program prior to admission; please contact Kate Donohue, cdonohue@niu.edu, for the course selection. Applications are posted at the Graduate School website. Students interested in this program may apply at any time, as there may be a limited number of openings available and late applications may not be considered.

STUDENT CHECKLIST

This checklist is an advising tool. It is the student's responsibility to read the Graduate Catalog for programmatic information including courses, course prerequisites and other program requirements.

Prior to admission to the program — requirements:

- _____ An undergraduate GPA of 2.75 or higher.
- _____ Two letters of recommendation.
- _____ A completed admissions application to the [Graduate School](#). (A **complete** graduate application includes a completed application, payment of an application fee, official transcripts, career goals statement, résumé, and letters of recommendation.)
- _____

Once you have been admitted:

- _____ Accept your admission using [MyNIU](#). MyNIU [Job Aids](#) are available online.
- _____ If you have any problems you can contact the DoIT service desk by calling 815-753-8100.
- _____ Meet with your advisor to plan your program of study. Discuss relevant life experience and whether you can substitute it for some of your clinical experience. Discuss transfer credits from other universities. Please provide copies of the syllabi from the course(s) in question, to determine if the appropriate course standards have been met.
- _____ Clinical experience, if needed. Please call the clinical office (815-753-9034) one year prior to the semester in which you expect to student teach.

Program of study for initial early childhood education licensure:

- _____ SEEC 500 Analysis of Instruction: Early Childhood Education (3)
- _____ SEEC 504 Developmentally Appropriate Practice in the Primary Classroom (3)
- _____ SEEC 535 Family and School Partnerships for Academic Success (3)
- _____ EPS 506 Seminar in Child Behavior (3)
- _____ SEEC 511 Comparative/International Early Childhood Education (3)
- _____ SEEC 521 Educational Diagnosis/Assessment of Young Children with Special Needs (3)
or SESE 523 Assessment in Early Childhood Special Education (3)
- _____ SEEC 520 Language Arts in Early Childhood Education (3)
- _____ SEEC 531 Social Learning in Early Childhood Education (3)
- _____ SEEC 532 Young Children's Exploration of the Physical World (3)
- _____ SEEC 533 Mathematics and Science for Young Children (3)
- _____ LTRE 516 Emerging Literacy Development (3)
- _____ LTLA 537 Acquisition of Spoken and Written Language (3)
- _____ LTIC 501 Multicultural Education: Methods and Materials (3) (other course approved by advisor)

Prior to your first clinical experience:

- _____ Completion of the [NIU Safety Tutorial](#). A paper copy of your ‘confirmation of successful completion’ must be provided to the clinical office.
- _____ Mandated Reporter. If you already completed a workshop or course, **please provide a copy of the completed tutorial or course to the graduate secretary**, 162 Gabel Hall, Department of Special and Early Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. If you need to complete a tutorial please visit the SEED [Student Resources](#) page and locate the materials under the Clinicals section.
- _____ Prior to any clinical or student teaching you must complete a criminal background check through the locations you are assigned by the clinical office.

Clinical experience:

- _____ SEEC 582 Preprimary Clinical Experience (1) [PreK early clinical experience]
- _____ SEEC 583 Primary Clinical Experience (2) [Primary grade early clinical experience]
- _____ SEEC 585A Preprimary Student Teaching (3)
- _____ SEEC 585B Primary Student Teaching (3)
- _____ SEEC 586 Internship (1-9) [Infant/Toddler early clinical experience]

This content knowledge is required for licensure:

Biology
Physical Science
Earth and Space Science
History
Geography
Civics and Government
Economics

These additional courses are required for the master’s degree:

- _____ One course in Education Research (3)
- _____ ETR 519 or ETR 520 or ETR 525 or another course with advisor approval.
- _____ SEEC 598 Master’s Cumulative Project (3)

In addition to the coursework for initial licensure, individuals wishing to obtain the special education approval must take:

- _____ SESE 526 Working with Families of Young Children with Disabilities
- _____ SEEC 522 Curriculum and Instructional Strategies for the Young Child with Special Needs (3)
- or**
- _____ SESE 524 Methods and Strategies for Promoting Development and Teaching Infants, Toddlers, and Young Children with Disabilities and Special Needs (3)

Prior to student teaching:

- _____ Please contact the clinical office (815-753-9034) one year prior to the semester in which you expect to student teach.
- _____ Successful completion of the Early Childhood Content Exam (No. 206 or No. 107), located on the [ILTS Website](#). Please provide a copy of the passing score to the graduate secretary in the Department of Teaching and Learning, NIU, DeKalb, IL 60115.
- _____ The [NIU Safety Tutorial](#). A paper copy of your “confirmation of successful completion” must be provided to the clinical office.
- _____ Mandated Reporter. If you already completed a workshop or course, **please provide a copy of the completed tutorial or course to the graduate secretary**, 162 Gabel Hall, Department of Special and Early Education, Northern Illinois University, DeKalb, IL 60115. If you need to complete a tutorial please visit the SEED [Student Resources](#) page and locate the materials under the Clinicals section.

Prior to any clinical or student teaching you must complete a criminal background check through the locations you are assigned by the clinical office.

These items may be required by the district in which you are placed.

- _____ A current TB card on file.
- _____ Criminal background check.
- _____ You may need to complete a physical exam.

_____ You must also attend the university-wide Student Teacher Kickoff Meeting and meetings with your clinical supervisor the Friday prior to beginning student teaching. The exact date will be announced by the [University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation](#).

Prior to graduation:

- _____ Contact your advisor to determine if all requirements for your master's degree have been completed.
- _____ Complete the Application for Graduation the semester **before** you plan to graduate. You can apply using My NIU.

Although not required for graduation, the following must be completed prior to licensure:

- _____ Completion of the Teaching Performance Assessment (edTPA). General information is located within the [University Office of Educator Licensure and Preparation](#) website.
- _____ Do not apply for your license until you have a notification pending statement on ELIS. If you apply early you will have to wait for your transcripts to be evaluated by the state. This takes six to nine months for each evaluation.