The Department of Early Childhood and Reading offers an online graduate program enabling students to obtain a Master of Education in Early Childhood Education. The graduate level degree will prepare practicing and pre-service teachers to work with children birth through grade 3 by aligning their work to best practices and research. The Master’s degree is offered online with a one-week summer residency on campus. Students in the Early Childhood Master’s program may also pursue Early Childhood certification (as an add-on or as an initial certification).

**Admission Requirements:** All admission materials should be sent to: School of Graduate Studies, 310 Scotland Road, Butterfield Hall, Edinboro, PA 16444 or via email gradstudies@edinboro.edu or fax 814-732-2611.

1. Complete the online application.
2. Pay an application fee of $30.
3. Provide an official transcript verifying an earned baccalaureate degree from a regionally accredited institution of higher education.
4. Verification of possession of a valid elementary education or early childhood teaching certificate, if applicable.
5. Minimum undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or satisfactory scores on the Miller Analogies Test (MAT) or Graduate Record Examination.

**Application Deadline:** This program has rolling admissions. There is no guarantee that the School of Graduate Studies can process an application for admission less than six weeks prior to the semester start date to which enrollment is sought.

**Note:** Certification procedures in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania require that the candidates must pass the PECT Early Childhood Exam required by the Pennsylvania Department of Education before certification will be granted. Candidates seeking certification in another state shall follow the corresponding procedures required by the given state. Only international students who hold immigrant status, and have submitted a form of intent to become a citizen, are eligible to apply for PDE teacher certification.

**Required Courses (27 cr. hrs.)**
- ECED 700 Development of Young Learners
- ECED 710 Issues and Trends in Early Literacy Development
- ECED 715 Curriculums in Early Childhood Education
- ECED 720 Math and Science for Young Children **
- ECED 730 Observation, Documentation, and Assessment in Early Childhood **
- ECED 740 Family, School and Community: Partnerships in Early Childhood Education
- ECED 750 Play, Research and Advocacy
- EDUC 788 Research in Education
- SPED 710 Seminar in Exceptionalities

**Elective Choice (3 cr. hrs.)**
Graduate level ECED courses not yet taken will meet this requirement as well as other graduate level READ and SPED courses as approved by the Graduate Program Head

**Teacher Certification**
Students holding Elementary Education Certification who seek Early Childhood Certification must complete two additional courses:
- ECED 695 Graduate Field Experience in Early Childhood Education
- ECED 766 Theory and Practice in Early Childhood

Students not holding Elementary Education Certification who seek Early Childhood Certification must complete additional coursework in Early Childhood Education. The Plan of Study may be found at [http://www.edinboro.edu/dotAsset/923a310b-e354-425d-9165-b440fc29a52a.pdf](http://www.edinboro.edu/dotAsset/923a310b-e354-425d-9165-b440fc29a52a.pdf).

**Degree Requirements:** Individuals must comply with the degree requirements for the Master’s Degrees listed under *Academic Standards and Policies* in this catalogue. In addition to these requirements, the individual must meet the following requirements:
**Research Requirements.** Candidates for the Master of Education Degree in Early Childhood must conduct an independent study related to their major field. This action research project is conducted while enrolled in ECED 750 Play, Research and Advocacy.

There are two requirements that you need to fulfill before being cleared to graduate: 1) Complete the Knowledge, skills and dispositions survey on Livetext and 2) Complete a brief exit interview and email it back to the program head. Certification procedures in the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania require that if candidates have taken and passed the Fundamental Subjects PECT test within the last ten years of when you finish taking the required ECE courses, you do not need to take another Praxis exam. If you have not taken this Praxis exam or took it longer than 10 years ago, you will need to pass it to get your PA certification.

**For More Information:** If you have questions about the application process, please contact Edinboro University's School of Graduate Studies at gradstudies@edinboro.edu or at (814)732-2856 or toll-free (888) 845-2890. For questions specific to the master's degree in Early Childhood Education, please contact Dr. Karen Lindeman at (814) 732-1550 (klindeman@edinboro.edu).

**Office for Students with Disabilities:** For information or assistance regarding services, activities and facilities that are accessible to and usable by persons with a disability, contact Office for Students with Disabilities (OSD), at (814) 732-2462 t/tty. For additional information, visit the OSD web page.

**Financial Aid Considerations:** An academic year consists of Fall, Spring, and Summer. Graduate students taking graduate level courses may receive up to $20,500 in the Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan Program. Most students will use their Stafford loans during the 9 month period (Fall and Spring). Students will want to be mindful of their financial aid to allow for funding for 12 months if planning on enrolling during the Summer term. Students will have an option to apply for Graduate Plus loan or private loans if other funding has been exhausted. For more specific information, please contact the Financial Aid Office at (814) 735-3500 or finaid@edinboro.edu

**Employer Reimbursement:** Non-traditional students who are working and taking classes on a part-time basis may have employer-paid education benefits. The purpose of the employer tuition reimbursement agreement is to allow employees who receive reimbursement to defer payment of their tuition and fees until after grades are available at the end of the semester.

**Veterans’ Education Benefits** Information and printable forms regarding Veterans' Education Benefits and the Montgomery GI Bill are available at the Department of Veterans Affairs website, [http://www.gibill.va.gov/](http://www.gibill.va.gov/). After the Department of Veterans Affairs approves a student's eligibility, and after the school certifies the student's enrollment, benefits are paid directly to the student after the end of each month.