

INTERDISCIPLINARY EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (MAT)

Master of Arts in Teaching in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education

Unit: College of Education and Human Development (<http://louisville.edu/education/>) (GE)

Department: Special Education, Early Childhood and Prevention Science (<https://louisville.edu/education/departments/sped/>)

Program Website (<https://louisville.edu/education/degrees/mat-iece/>)

Academic Plan Code(s): IECEMAT, IECEMATO

Program Information

Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education Birth to Primary Teacher Certification Program

This program can be completed 100% online (<https://louisville.edu/online/programs/masters/online-mat-in-interdisciplinary-early-childhood-education/>).

The program emphasizes in-depth academic preparation and field experiences that allow teachers to be knowledgeable about the field of early childhood/special education and to develop critical thinking and lifelong learning skills. The program emphasizes:

- Nurturing students as active agents in their own learning
- Authentic, performance-based assessment of teaching and learning
- Meeting the needs of all students
- Responding constructively to sociocultural differences among students

The program prepares students interested in working with children from birth to age 5 in a wide variety of settings—day care centers, public and private preschools, community programs, and clinics. This program gives students authentic experiences with infants, toddlers, and preschool children in the areas of curriculum development, typical and atypical child development, programs and services for children and their families, family involvement and intervention, screening and assessment, program administration, current topics, and practicum/action research.

The goals of this program include:

- IECE Teacher Certification
- Preparation of teachers for the education of typical and atypical children in different settings
- Provide background information on Kentucky Child Learning and Assessment Standards

Although this program has determined that it meets educational requirements for licensure in other US states and jurisdictions, this program is designed specifically to align with Kentucky certification requirements for the supervised student teaching or culminating clinical experience. **Therefore, students in this program are required to complete their student teaching or clinical experience at an approved placement location in the state of Kentucky.** Please contact the program director to discuss possible arrangements to complete culminating experiences in Southern Indiana before enrolling in the program.

Admission Requirements

Candidates who meet the following criteria may be eligible to apply to the Master of Arts in Teaching program:

1. Application to Graduate School (<https://graduate.louisville.edu/admission/apply/>). This should be completed three to four weeks prior to the application deadline.
2. Bachelor's degree (<http://louisville.edu/education/degrees/info/bachelors/>) with minimum undergraduate degree GPA of 2.75 (official transcripts (<http://louisville.edu/education/degrees/info/transcripts/>) required)
3. C or higher in ENGL 102 (or equivalent) and oral communication courses
4. TOEFL (<http://louisville.edu/education/degrees/info/toefl/>)/IELTS (<https://www.ielts.org/>)/Duolingo (<https://www.duolingo.com/>)
5. Professional Writing Requirements (<https://louisville.edu/education/degrees/info/mat-mse-professional-statement/>)
6. Signed Professional Code of Ethics/Technology User Agreement/Statement of Understanding of Admissions Guidelines
7. Three Letters of Recommendation (<http://louisville.edu/education/degrees/info/lor/>)
8. Interview

Candidates considering applying to the MAT program should contact the Education Advising and Student Services office (teacher@louisville.edu) (<http://louisville.edu/cgi-bin/uofl.mail?teacher>) prior to applying for admission.

Admission is competitive. Candidates who meet minimum academic requirements are not guaranteed admission to the program.

Program Requirements

Code	Title	Hours
EDSP 515	Communication and Socialization in Early Childhood	3
EDSP 533	Inclusive Early Childhood Curriculum	3
EDSP 534	Inclusive Early Childhood Curriculum Field Experience	1
EDSP 536	Theories of Play	3
EDSP 537	Infant/Toddler Instruction and Care	3
EDSP 583	Early Childhood Special Education Assessment	3
EDSP 584	Families and Collaboration in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	3
EDSP 585	Families and Collaboration in IECE: Field Experience	1
EDSP 600	Creativity and the Young Child	3
EDSP 656	Guidance for Young Children Field Experience	1
EDSP 657	Guidance for Young Children	3
600 Level Electives approved by advisor ¹		3
<i>Mid-Point Assessment: Prior to Student Teaching (see requirements below)</i>		
EDSP 606	Student Teaching: Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education	3

EDTP 615	Student Teaching: Elementary School	3
Minimum Total Hours		36

Midpoint Assessment: Completion of all courses listed above with 3.0 cumulative GPA or higher; satisfactory dispositions assessment; electronic documentation of 200 hours of diverse and approved field experiences; satisfactory performance on all Hallmark Assessment Tasks; Target performance or better on all rubrics.

Certification Assessment: Satisfactory dispositions assessment; passing scores on required PRAXIS exams; completion of degree requirements.

Degree Assessment: Cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher (with at least a “C” in Student Teaching); No more than a total of two “C’s” in course work; satisfactory performance on all Hallmark Assessment Tasks; Target performance or better on all rubrics.

Degree Candidacy: If not enrolled during the semester in which you are graduating, you will need to register for degree candidacy as outlined in the Graduate Catalog (<https://catalog.louisville.edu/graduate/general-policies-procedures-requirements/>).

Praxis Disclaimer:

"Teacher certification requirements are subject to change. Before registering for certification test(s), please refer to the Education Professional Standards Board (EPSB) website at [epsb.ky.gov](http://www.epsb.ky.gov) (<http://www.epsb.ky.gov/>) or ets.org/praxis/ky (<http://www.ets.org/praxis/ky/>) for current requirements."

¹ Advisor approval needed.

The Master of Arts in Teaching in Interdisciplinary Early Childhood Education program prepares students to meet the requirements for certification and/or licensure. If you plan to pursue professional licensure or certification you should first determine your state’s criteria for examination and licensure to see how/if our program meets those requirements prior to enrollment. We recommend that you also contact your state’s licensing board directly to verify that the requirements have not changed recently and to answer any questions especially those regarding additional requirements beyond the degree.

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More information about certification or licensure is available at the following website: <https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information> (<https://louisville.edu/oapa/licensure-information/>) (you may search by school or by the name of the program then click on 'View Details' to display the information).

For programs with an online option, more information about certification or licensure is available here: <https://louisville.edu/online/About-Us?tab=disclosures> (<https://louisville.edu/online/About-Us/?tab=disclosures>).