

# EXCEPTIONAL EDUCATION, BS: EARLY CHILDHOOD

*Effective Fall 2025, the Exceptional Education BS in Early Childhood has suspended admission.*

The Early Childhood Special Education major leads to a Bachelor of Science in Exceptional Education. Upon completion, students will be eligible to apply for a Cross-Categorical Special Education Teaching License from the Wisconsin Department of Public Instruction for birth through grade 3. Special Education teachers who specialize in early childhood are currently in high demand, according to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics.

## Requirements

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### General Education Requirements (GERs)

UW-Milwaukee has General Education Requirements (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/policies/undergraduate-policies/#generaleducationtext>) that must be met in order to earn a bachelor's degree. Some of the requirements of your program may fulfill the campus GERs. Please review the requirements and consult with your academic advisor.

#### Program Core

Code	Title	Credits
Choose one:		3
ENGLISH 201	Strategies for Academic Writing (GER-OWCB)	
ENGLISH 205	Business Writing (GER-OWCB)	
MATH 175	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers I (GER-QLA)	3
MATH 176	Mathematical Explorations for Elementary Teachers II (GER-QLB)	3
Choose one: <sup>1</sup>		3
ANTHRO 213	American Indian Peoples of Wisconsin (GER-CD, SS)	
ENGLISH 276	Introduction to American Indian Literature: (GER-CD, HU)	
AIS 203	Western Great Lakes American Indian Community Life of the Past (GER-CD, SS)	
HIST 263	North American Indian History Since 1887 (GER-CD, SS)	
ART ED 130	Multicultural Art and Visual Learning in Elementary Education (GER-A, CD)	3
COMMUN 103	Public Speaking (GER-HU)	3
GER Literature elective (Fulfills GER-HU)		3
CES 210	Introduction to Conservation and Environmental Science (GER-NS)	3
Earth Science elective (GER-NS or GER-NS+: Aston, Atm Sci, Geog, or Geo Sci)		3-4
Physical Science elective (GER-NS or GER-NS+: Chem or Physics)		3-4
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>30-32</b>

<sup>1</sup> Non-Western History or Contemporary Culture and Minority Group Relations (Act 31) statutory requirements can both be met by taking one class.

### Professional Requirements

Code	Title	Credits
<i>During Year 1</i>		
CURRINS 140	Field Experience with Families & Communities	1
CURRINS 312	Models and Issues for Early Childhood Education	3
<i>Semester 3</i>		
CURRINS 240	Field Experience with Dual Language Learners	2
CURRINS 501	Language Acquisition for Children of Diverse Backgrounds	3
<i>Semester 4</i>		
CURRINS 302	Curriculum Design in Early Childhood	3
CURRINS 340	Field Experience in Preschool and Kindergarten Classrooms	2
or CURRINS 440	Field Experience in the Primary Grades	
CURRINS 502	Emergent Literacy and Biliteracy in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
<i>Semester 5</i>		
EXCEDUC 569	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Preschool	3
EXCEDUC 648	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Preschool	3
CURRINS 330	Teaching of Mathematics 1	3
<i>Semester 6</i>		
EXCEDUC 570	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Primary	3
EXCEDUC 649	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Primary	3
ED PSY/EXCEDUC 613	Infant and Early Childhood Assessment	3
CURRINS 504	Methods for Biliteracy and Language Arts in Primary Grades	3
<i>Semester 7</i>		
EXCEDUC 568	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Birth to Three	3
EXCEDUC 647	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: 0 to 3 Yrs	3
EXCEDUC 682	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Special Education	3
<i>Semester 8</i>		
EXCEDUC 481	Student Teaching with Students Having Early Childhood Exceptional Ed Needs	12
<i>Highly recommended:</i>		
CURRINS/EXCEDUC 376	Understanding and Developing the edTPA	
<i>Other Required Professional Courses</i>		
MUS ED 260	Making Music Connections with Children	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3

EXCEDUC 630	Survey of EC Intervention: Young Children with Special Needs, Families	3
CURRINS/EXCEDUC 612	Collaborations for Teachers with Families, Schools, and Communities	3
<b>Electives</b>		
Select electives to ensure the minimum 120 credits required for graduation		
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>71</b>

### Exceptional Education, Early Childhood Submajor Completion Requirements

- Completion of program requirements;
- Completion of university GER;
- Completion of a minimum of 120 credits;
- Completion of the last year of coursework (30 credits) in residence at UWM;
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in UWM and transfer credits; and
- Minimum cumulative GPA of 2.75 in professional coursework

See your advisor for additional requirements for certification.

### Post-baccalaureate Program

(Under revision; please see an advisor for information.)

Code	Title	Credits
<b>Year 1 - Summer</b>		
CURRINS 302	Curriculum Design in Early Childhood	3
EXCEDUC 630	Survey of EC Intervention: Young Children with Special Needs, Families	3
<b>Year 1 - Fall</b>		
EXCEDUC 569	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Preschool	3
EXCEDUC 648	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Preschool	3
CURRINS 502	Emergent Literacy and Biliteracy in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
<b>Year 1 - Spring</b>		
CURRINS 504	Methods for Biliteracy and Language Arts in Primary Grades	3
EXCEDUC 570	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Primary	3
EXCEDUC 649	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: Primary	3
<b>Year 2 - Summer</b>		
EXCEDUC 568	Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Birth to Three	3
EXCEDUC 647	Early Childhood Special Education Field Experience: 0 to 3 Yrs	3
<b>Year 2 - Fall</b>		
EXCEDUC 682	Language and Literacy in Early Childhood Special Education	3
CURRINS 330	Teaching of Mathematics 1	3
ED PSY 330	Introduction to Learning and Development	3
or ED PSY 640	Human Development: Theory and Research	

### Year 2 - Spring

EXCEDUC 652	Developmental Evaluation of Young Children with Disabilities	3
EXCEDUC 651	Working With Families in Urban Communities	3
<b>Other Teaching Experience Requirements</b>		
EXCEDUC 481	Student Teaching with Students Having Early Childhood Exceptional Ed Needs	3
or EXCEDUC 776	Fieldwork with Students Having Early Childhood-Exceptional Education Needs	
CURRINS 400	Field Work in Curriculum and Instruction:	1-6
<b>Total Credits</b>		<b>49-54</b>

## Advance to Major

### Admission to Program

See academic advisor.

## Benchmarks

### Student Teaching

Students must complete paperwork in order to be assigned a student teaching placement. To determine your deadline (February or April), visit the Office of Clinical Experiences website at [uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/](http://uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/) (<http://uwm.edu/education/academics/clinical-experiences/>).

## Undergraduate Advising

Our purpose is to provide collaborative, mentoring relationships which promote educational, career, and professional development. We value a student-centered, holistic, and ethical approach to advising based on strong partnerships with students, faculty and staff, and the larger campus community. We are committed to creating a respectful and supportive environment. We encourage students to be self-reliant through informed decisions and choices based upon dissemination of accurate information. We value our own continuous professional development to enhance the quality of the advising experience.

### How to Prepare for an Advising Meeting

- Review your Advisement Report in PAWS (<http://uwm.edu/registrar/academic-unit-services/paws-academic-advisement/>).
- Come prepared with questions or topics for discussion.
- Make a list of courses you think you should take.
- Investigate opportunities to prepare for the job you want.
- Keep a record of your academic progress.
- Understand you are ultimately responsible for creating your educational, life, and career plans.
- Maintain honest and open communication with your advisor.
- Take responsibility for choices you make as a student and member of the UW-Milwaukee community.

### Scheduling an Appointment

Office of Student Services  
Enderis Hall, Room 209  
(414) 229-4721  
[soeinfo@uwm.edu](mailto:soeinfo@uwm.edu)

## Graduate Advising

If you are a School of Education graduate student, you may schedule an appointment with your faculty advisor by contacting your faculty advisor directly. Faculty contact information can be found in the Directory (<https://uwm.edu/education/directory/>). Your faculty advisor will be listed in your PAWS account.

## Honors in the Department of Teaching and Learning

Departmental Honors are granted to students who have achieved a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester.

## College of Community Engagement and Professions Dean's Honor List

GPA of 3.750 or above, earned on a full-time student's GPA on 12 or more graded credits in a given semester.

## Honors College Degree and Honors College Degree with Distinction

Granted to graduating seniors who complete Honors College requirements, as listed in the Honors College (<https://catalog.uwm.edu/honors-college/>) section of this site.

## Commencement Honors

Students with a cumulative GPA of 3.500 or above, based on a minimum of 40 graded UWM credits earned prior to the final semester, will receive all-university commencement honors and be awarded the traditional gold cord at the December or May Honors Convocation. Please note that for honors calculation, the GPA is **not** rounded and is truncated at the third decimal (e.g., 3.499).

## Final Honors

Earned on a minimum of 60 graded UWM credits: Cum Laude - 3.500 or above; Magna Cum Laude - 3.650 or above; Summa Cum Laude - 3.800 or above.