Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Certification and Master’s Degree

Why this UWM program is right for you:

- **Experienced Faculty**: recognized leaders in the field of special education with expertise in: urban teaching, inclusive education, language and literacy, curriculum, and assistive technology
- **Urban Focus**: culturally responsive teaching methods to reach students from diverse backgrounds
- **Evening Classes**: scheduling options which meet the needs of working professionals and adult learners
- **Master’s Degree Option**: certification can be combined with a Master’s Degree in Exceptional Education

To apply to this program, you will need:

- Bachelor’s Degree from an accredited institution of higher education
- Undergraduate Grade Point Average (GPA) of 2.50 or above
- An active 5-year Wisconsin Teaching License in Early Childhood Education

Program Structure: (See back of this page for the typical sequence of courses in the ECSE one year program)

- **Cohort Model**: student groups move through the program together
- **Field-based Teaching Experiences**: extensive and supervised work in schools and classrooms
- **Cross-categorical Certification**: program content prepares students to teach all children with an Individualized Family Service Plan (IFSP) or Individualized Education Program (IEP)

Teacher Certification: This program leads to certification in Early Childhood Special Education, DPI license subject 809

Master’s Degree Option: Individuals can earn certification and a Master’s Degree through UWM’s program. Once accepted into the Post-Baccalaureate program individuals complete their final 18 certification credits at the graduate level and complete 12 credits of Master’s core coursework. If interested, speak with an advisor regarding the steps required to apply.
Typical Course Sequence for the ONE YEAR Certification Program In Early Childhood Special Education for Teachers Certified in Early Childhood Regular Education

Note: Students may only enter the professional courses after formal admission to the program. To advance in the sequence, the teacher candidate must successfully complete each requirement listed for the semester, including a “C” or better in coursework/field experiences and at least a 2.75 GPA for the semester. If this does not occur, a meeting must be scheduled with the faculty at the end of the semester and a determination will be made about continuation in the program.

**One Year Program is approximately 30 credits, a transcript review determines the number of credits required**

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<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 647 ECSE Field Experience: 0 to 3 Yrs.</td>
<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 648 ECSE Field Experience: Preschool</td>
<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 649 ECSE Field Experience: Primary</td>
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<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 568 Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Birth to 3</td>
<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 569 Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Preschool</td>
<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 570 Curriculum and Methods for Special Education: Primary</td>
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<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 612/CURRINS 612 Collaborations for Teachers with Families, Schools, and Communities</td>
<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 682 Language and Literacy in ECSE</td>
<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 613/ED PSY 613 Infant and Early Childhood Assessment</td>
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<td>__ 3 EXCEDUC 481 or EXCEDUC 776 Student Teaching with Students Having Early Childhood Special Ed Needs or Fieldwork with Students Having Early Childhood-Exceptional Education Needs</td>
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9 Certification Credits | 9 Certification Credits | 12 Certification Credits

### Additional Requirements

**GPA Requirements:** must earn a “C” or better in all courses with a 2.75 cumulative GPA required upon completion of program

**Content Knowledge Requirement:** Satisfied prior to final teaching experience by:
- Praxis II Elementary Education: Content Knowledge test (5014) with a qualifying score of 147 or above, OR
- Previous coursework/GPA, OR
- Content Knowledge Portfolio

**ACT 31:** study of Wisconsin’s American Indian history, culture, and tribal sovereignty satisfies Human Relations Requirement

**Wisconsin Reading Foundations Test:** passing score of 240 or above; required for licensure as of January 1, 2014

**Midpoint or Mini Portfolio:** demonstration of integrated Wisconsin teaching standards

**Additional Requirements:**

- 3 EXCEDUC 715 Issues and Trends in Exceptional Education
- 3 EXCEDUC 770 Seminar: Research on Individuals with Special Needs
- 3 EXCEDUC 608 Multicultural Learning and Teaching in Special Education
- 3 EXCEDUC 890 Master’s Research Project

**MASTER’S CORE (optional)**

- 3 EXCEDUC 715 Issues and Trends in Exceptional Education
- 3 EXCEDUC 770 Seminar: Research on Individuals with Special Needs
- 3 EXCEDUC 608 Multicultural Learning and Teaching in Special Education
- 3 EXCEDUC 890 Master’s Research Project

**Application Process:** The Post-Baccalaureate Application Packet can be found online at: [http://uwm.edu/education/academics/post-bacc-special-edu-teacher-cert-admissions/](http://uwm.edu/education/academics/post-bacc-special-edu-teacher-cert-admissions/). Submit an application a minimum of four weeks prior to the semester of desired enrollment. Complete applications include:

- Department of Exceptional Education Application
- Official Transcripts
- Personal Statement
- Resume
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- University of Wisconsin System Electronic Application

**Visit the Department of Exceptional Education website:**
[http://uwm.edu/education/academics/exceptional-edu-department/](http://uwm.edu/education/academics/exceptional-edu-department/)

**Contact the School of Education:** 414-229-4721

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