



Early Childhood Education - Master Teacher Certificate - with Specialization Options

This certificate meets the requirements for teaching in a publicly funded early care and education program. It requires an additional 6 units of specialized study beyond the teacher level certificate, allowing the student to select a particular focus of study (i.e., infant/toddler; culture and diversity; health and nutrition; children's literature; and art or music for young children). Applicants must verify required experience teaching children and supervising staff to be recommended to the California Commission on Teacher Credentialing for issuance of the Master Teacher Child Development Permit.

Total Units: 56

First Year

Semester 1

15 Units

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS [^] | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|---|-------|---|--------------------|
| ECE 300 Introduction to Principles and Practices in Early Childhood Education | 3 | | F, S |
| ECE 312¹ Child Development | 3 | Advisory: ENGL C1000 | F, S, Su |
| ECE 314² The Child, the Family and the Community | 3 | | F, S, Su |
| ENGL C1000 College Composition | 3 | Advisory: LIBR 318; Concurrent enrollment in ENGLB 55 | F(P), S(P), Su(O) |
| COMM C1000 Introduction to Public Speaking | 3 | | F, S, Su |

¹ Course also offered during summer term. Must be completed by semester 2.

² Course also offered during summer term.

Semester 2

16 Units

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS [^] | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|--|-------|--|--------------------|
| ECE 320¹ Curriculum and Interactions in Early Childhood Education | 4 | ECE 300 & 312 & Co-req: ECE 326; TB clearance & proof of immunization. | F, S |
| ECE 326 Making Learning Visible Through Observation and Documentation | 3 | ECE 312 | F, S |
| ECE 415 Children's Health, Safety and Nutrition | 3 | | F, S |
| ECE 430 Culture and Diversity in Early Childhood Education | 3 | | F, S |

Career

Options/Outlook:

The Early Childhood Education (ECE) – Master Teacher Certificate prepares individuals for advanced teaching and leadership roles in early learning environments. This certificate, combined with the required work experience, fulfills the California Child Development Permit requirements for the Master Teacher Permit, qualifying graduates for expanded career opportunities in the field of early childhood education.

Students interested in gaining work experience as a lead preschool teacher and considering further education at a California State University (CSU) for a teaching credential can apply these ECE units toward the PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Teaching Credential. This credential is designed for individuals seeking to teach in preschool, transitional kindergarten (TK), kindergarten, and early elementary grades (1st–3rd grade) in public or private elementary schools.

Additionally, students enrolled in ECE 320 (Curriculum and Interactions in Early Childhood Education) and ECE 321 (Advanced Practicum in Early Childhood Education) can earn up to 200 field experience hours, which can be applied toward the 600 total field experience hours required for the preschool portion of the PK-3 ECE Specialist Credentialing program.

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS^ | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|---|-------|-------------------------------------|--------------------|
| MATH 300 Introduction to Mathematical Ideas or | 3 | Intermediate Algebra or equivalent | F, S, Su |
| MATH 310 Mathematical Discovery | 3 | MATH 110 (or Geometry) & 120 or 125 | F, S |

¹ 102-108 in-person lab hours at qualifying site. Under California law (Title 22) any persons working directly with children must provide proof of current Tuberculosis clearance and provide any required proof of immunizations (currently: measles, pertussis, and influenza/influenza waiver).

Year 2

Semester 3

15 Units

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS^ | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|--|-------|--|--------------------|
| ECE 321¹ Advanced Practicum in Early Childhood Education | 4 | ECE 300, 312, 320, & 326; TB clearance & proof of immunization | F, S |
| ECE 404 Children with Special Needs | 3 | ECE 312 | F, S |
| ECE 424 Adult Supervision: Mentoring in a Collaborative Learning Setting | 2 | ECE 320 | F, S |
| HUM 300 Classical Humanities or | 3 | | F, S, Su |
| PHIL 310 Introduction to Ethics or | 3 | | F, S |
| PHOTO 420 History of Photography | 3 | | F, S |
| 3 units from one of the Specialized Options in Lists Below | 3 | See List Below | See List Below |

¹ 102-108 in-person lab hours at qualifying site. Under California law (Title 22) any persons working directly with children must provide proof of current Tuberculosis clearance and provide any required proof of immunizations (currently: measles, pertussis, and influenza/influenza waiver).

Semester 4

10 Units

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS^ | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|---|-------|-----------|-----------------------------------|
| SPAN 401 Elementary Spanish I or | 4 | | F, S, Su |
| VIET 401 Elementary Vietnamese or | 4 | | F, S, Su |
| DEAF 310 American Sign Language I | 4 | | F, S, Su |
| PSYC 371 Life Span Developmental Psychology or | 3 | | F, S |
| FCS 324 Human Development: A Life Span | 3 | | Check Class Schedule for offering |

This certificate provides a strong foundation for leadership in early childhood education while also offering a pathway to further academic and professional advancement in teaching young children.

A sample of reported job titles:

Career Opportunities:

Graduates of this certificate program can pursue roles such as:

Master Teacher – Lead a classroom, develop curriculum, and mentor assistant teachers and student interns.

Preschool Lead Teacher – Guide curriculum planning and instruction in preschool programs.

Infant/Toddler Specialist – Provide specialized care and education for infants and toddlers.

Head Start or Early Head Start Teacher – Teach in federally funded programs supporting children from diverse backgrounds.

Mentor Teacher – Support and train new educators in early childhood settings.

Early Childhood Curriculum Specialist – Design and implement specialized learning programs.

Projected job openings in California (2020-2030):

73,380

Projected growth in California (2020-2030):

15% growth

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS [^] | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|---|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| 3 units from one of the Specialized Options in Lists Below | 3 | See List Below | See List Below |

[^]You must have passed the prerequisite course(s) with a "C" or better; Corequisite must be taken during the same semester; Advisory means it is recommended but not required to enroll in the course.

*(O) = online available (P) = partially online

Curriculum Specialization-a minimum of 6 units from the following:

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS [^] | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|--|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ECE 307¹ Introduction to Bilingual Education | 3 | | F |
| ECE 322 Promoting Children's Social Competence | 3 | | F, S |
| ECE 342 Constructive Math and Science in Early Childhood Education | 3 | ECE 312 | F, Alternating S |
| ECE 343 Language and Literacy Development in Early Childhood | 3 | ECE 312 | S |
| ECE 361 Introducing Young Children to Visual Arts | 3 | | F, Alternating S |
| ECE 365 Creative Projects and Experiences for Young Children | 3 | | Occasionally |

¹ At least 10 tutoring sessions of an emergent ELL

Infant & Toddler Care Specialization-a minimum of 3 units from the following:

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS [^] | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|--|-------|-----------------------|--------------------|
| ECE 330 Infant and Toddler Development | 3 | | F, S |
| ECE 331 Care and Education of Infants and Toddlers | 3 | ECE 312 or 330 | F, S |
| ECE 402 Infants with Atypical Development | 3 | ECE 312 | Occasionally |

School-Age Care Specialization-a minimum of 6 units from the following

| COURSE | UNITS | PRE-REQS [^] | SEMESTERS OFFERED* |
|---|-------|---------------------------------|--------------------|
| ECE 350¹ Introduction to Elementary Teaching with Field Experience | 3 | TB clearance; Advisory: ECE 312 | S |
| ECE 356 Programs for the School-Age Child | 3 | Advisory: ECE 312 | F |

Median Salary in California with advanced degree (2021):

\$58,750/year

Source:

[O-Net Online](#)

Transfer notes:

Please meet with a counselor for specific transfer course evaluation or transferring to a specific 4-year institution.

General Education (GE):

Non-specified GE courses identified by CRC Area, CSU Area or IGETC Area without pre- or co-requisite can be taken at any semester.

Honors option:

The CRC Honors Program is designed specifically for academically accomplished students and for students with the potential for high achievement. Students who complete 15 units or more in honors-designated courses will earn special recognition as an Honors Scholar, a distinction that may entitle the student to guaranteed transfer and scholarship opportunities at select transfer colleges and universities.

Program Notes:

To be eligible for the Child Development Permit (Master Teacher Level) through California Commission on Teacher Credentialing students must complete, "sixteen diversified semester units in general education (i.e., at least one course in each of the following areas: Humanities and/or Fine Arts, Social Sciences, Math and/or Science, and English/Language Arts)."[5 CCR § 80113, 5 CA ADC § 80113] General education units must be transferable.

¹ 45 - 54 lab hours under the supervision of a credentialed teacher & oversight of ECE faculty at a qualifying site

Students will select a Master Teacher "Specialization" consisting of six (6) units of focused content (see below). Contact ECE Instructional Faculty for information on experience and supervised experience requirements all Child Development Permits.

Field Experience

Please note that ECE 320 and ECE 321 has a 102-108 supervised field experience lab requirement per course. These are approved program/curriculum courses required by the California Code of Regulations Title 22 and Title 5. Under the supervision of a qualified Mentor Teacher, students will complete 3.5 in-person scheduled lab hours twice a week at the CRC Child Development Center or an instructor-approved early learning and care setting. Up to 50 days of experience can be applied to California Commission on Teacher Credentialing (CCTC) Child Development Permits for students completing ECE 320 & 321. Up to 100 hours of supervised clinical practice equivalency (in-person lab hours) may be applied to a PK-3 Early Childhood Education (ECE) Specialist Instruction Credential Program (CCTC). The college requires all lab students to complete a lab waiver within the learning management system. Students must show current proof of tuberculosis clearance, pertussis immunization, and measles immunization. Additionally, students enrolled in the fall semester must be immunized against influenza, or submit an influenza waiver.

About this program map:

This program map represents one possible pathway to complete the program. Please see a counselor to create an education plan customized to meet your needs. This map is not a guarantee of course availability or financial aid applicability.

Zero Textbook Costs (ZTC):

The Zero Textbook Costs designation and logo are added to any course that provides free access to all required instructional materials. These are typically shared with students through Canvas. Courses that are designated as ZTC may still require students to purchase supplemental materials such as lab coats, a calculator, art supplies, etc. See full definitions and searching tips on the [Zero Textbook Costs](#) page of the college website.

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