WAYNE STATE COLLEGE

EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION (MSE)

Curriculum and Instruction - Instructional Leadership

Enhance your teaching, leadership, and instructional skills for early childhood education. In the Curriculum and Instruction MSE program, you will explore instructional theory and contemporary approaches to curriculum design that support effective teaching and learning. The Early Childhood Education emphasis focuses on the growth and development of young children from birth through age eight, developmentally appropriate curriculum and assessment, and the leadership and management of early childhood programs.

This program is designed for educators who are already certified in early childhood education and wish to deepen their expertise while earning a master's degree; it does not lead to initial teacher certification, and licensure requirements may vary by state.

fast facts

Degree offered: Master of Science in Education (MSE) in Curriculum and Instruction – Instructional Leadership / Early Childhood Education

Credit hours: 36

Cost per credit hour: $404 total *(includes $261.90 tuition + $142.10 fees)*

Delivery method: Online

Department: Educational Foundations and Leadership

School: Education and Behavioral Sciences

focus on results

Skills Learned

- Early childhood growth and development
- Developmentally appropriate curriculum design
- Early childhood assessment and observation
- Positive behavior and classroom climate
- Family, school, and community collaboration
- Program leadership and early childhood administration
- Inclusive and culturally responsive learning environments

Possible Careers

- Early childhood educator
- Preschool teacher
- Early childhood program director
- Child development specialist
- Early learning curriculum coordinator
- Family engagment coordinator
- Early childhood consultant

Types of Employers

- Early childhood and preschool centers
- Public and private schools
- Head Start programs
- Child and family service agencies
- Community and nonprofit organizations
- Educational service agencies
- Colleges and training providers

recognized for excellence

Our graduate programs are nationally recognized for their excellence, exceptional value, and flexible learning options — consistently earning top distinctions for affordability and quality.

Most Affordable Online Master's Degrees in the U.S.
Wayne State College was ranked among the Top 10 most affordable online master's degree programs in the nation by *Intelligent.com* for 2025.

College of Distinction
Wayne State College has been recognized as a College of Distinction, an honor that highlights institutions for engaged students, great teaching, a vibrant campus community, and successful outcomes.

Program courses

2026-27 Academic Year

The following courses are required for the program of study described on this sheet. Every effort is made to ensure this information is current, but please be aware that some content may have changed. To develop a plan for registering and taking these courses, please consult the current academic catalog and your advisor.

Program requirements: 36 credit hours

Core courses (12 credit hours)

EDU 603 Introduction to Educational Research and Design 3
EDU 621 Education Program Orientation 0
EDU 652 Instructional Theory and Practice 3
EDU 658 Fundamentals of Curriculum Development PK-16 3
Select one of the following 3

- EDU 674 History and Philosophy of Education (3)
- MAT 645 Current Trends in Mathematics Curriculum and Teaching (3)

Early Childhood Education focus area (24 credit hours)

This endorsement requires an applicant to have a valid regular teaching certificate. See non-degree seeking endorsement only options for more information.

EDU 605 Curriculum and Methods Appropriate for Ages Birth-8 3
EDU 617 Assessment of Needs for Young Children Birth-8 3
EDU 632 Clinical for Early Childhood 3
FCS 604 Infants/Toddlers Through Primary Children Birth-8 3
FCS 611 Administration of Early Childhood Education Programs and Coordination of Community Partnerships 3
FCS 616 Early Childhood Practicum and Applied Research 3
SPD 636 Social / Emotional Behavior 3
SPD 652 Collaboration and Co-Teaching 3

questions? contact:

Dr. Johanna Barnes
Professor
Benthack Hall, 205P
402-375-7285
jobarne1@wsc.edu

Dr. Christian Legler
Associate Dean, School of Education and Behavioral Sciences
Benthack Hall, 111B
402-375-7390
chlegle1@wsc.edu

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