Purpose

This graduate program of study is designed for persons who hold a valid elementary level teaching license who wish to work toward a master’s degree in early childhood education with an emphasis on working with young children with and without special needs. Completion of this program may also lead to the Kansas Early Childhood Unified license.

Admission/Eligibility Requirements

In addition to the requirements of the Graduate School, a formal letter, with admission requirement material, will be mailed to you. All students are admitted on a probationary status, pending successful completion of these admission requirements:

- GPA (a minimum of 3.00 on the last 60 semester hours of undergraduate study)
- Two references and two Advanced Candidate Assessment of Dispositions completed by supervising administrators (available online)
- Signed Disposition Disclosure Form (available online)
- Admissions essay: Describe your critical thinking and beliefs about issues in early childhood education (using the rubrics available online)

Degree Candidacy

Candidacy is the formal approval for pursuit of a graduate degree after it is determined that all specified preliminary requirements have been met. Requirements for degree candidacy are as follows:
1) The student must have met the admission requirements.
2) The advisor has filed the candidate’s degree plan with the Graduate School.
3) The student must have completed at least six hours of course work in the graduate program.

Permission to participate in two required practica

Even though students are admitted to degree candidacy, enrollment in the two teaching practica required in this program is not automatic. Students will be evaluated on knowledge, skills and dispositions required for success in the two practica, CD 841 and CD 861. Students will be given a copy of the dispositions rating form after acceptance into the program. If a student does not meet expectations, he/she will not be allowed to enroll.

Graduation Requirements

In order to receive a masters’ degree in early childhood education, students must accomplish the following:
1) Complete the program of study outlined below.
2) Maintain a 3.00 grade point average.
3) Submit and formally present a final master’s project during the last term of enrollment. The final project must meet expectations for graduate work (to be scored by early childhood faculty and a passing score must be obtained). Directions for the final project assignment and dates for presentation may be obtained from the department or advisor.
Course Requirements and Sequence

Core (12 hours)
CD 830 Characteristics of Inclusive Early Childhood Education ..........................................................3
CD 838 Methods of Inclusive Early Childhood Education .................................................................3
CD 837 Collaboration in Inclusive Early Childhood Programs .........................................................3
EL 751 Application of Developmental Theories ..................................................................................3

Concentration (12 hours)
CD 832 Observation, Assessment and Screening in Inclusive Early Childhood Programs ..........3
CD 842 Family Involvement in Inclusive EC Programs .................................................................3
CD 843 Working With Infants & Toddlers With and Without Special Needs & Their Families ......3
CD 839 Validation of Inclusive Elementary Teaching Portfolio (K-3rd) ...........................................3

Electives (3 hours)
3 hours of advisor-approved course work ......................................................................................3

Research (3 hours)
ER 752 Analysis of Research ...........................................................................................................3

Practica (6 hours)
CD 841 Clinical Experience: Inclusive Early Childhood Practicum: Center Based .......................3
CD 861 Clinical Experience: Inclusive Early Childhood Practicum: Home Based .......................3

TOTAL ..............................................................................................................................................36

Note: Electives and ER 752 Analysis of Research may be taken at any time in the sequence.

Teacher Licensure

Upon completion of the requirements, the student is responsible for applying for licensure by contacting the Teacher Licensing Officer, Emporia State University. The Teacher Licensing Officer then recommends to the Kansas State Department of Education that the student be licensed.

Candidates completing the master of science degree after September 1, 2003 will be required to take a subject assessment/specialty area test (Licensure Area: Early Childhood Unified; Test Code: 20021; Test Name: Education of Young Children). For test descriptions, sample questions with answers, and test-taking strategies, see the Tests at a Glance. Review and download Tests at a Glance information instantly—from the Praxis Series website at www.ets.org/praxis.

Knowledge of and compliance with the requirements for any graduate degree are primarily the responsibility of the student. Consequently, careful reading and study of the Graduate Catalog is expected as a self-imposed prerequisite on the part of the student applying for admission to graduate study.

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