Gain professional skills in early childhood education in the most efficient way possible through our 100% online accelerated degree program.

In this online accelerated degree program, you’ll complete a Bachelor’s and Master’s degree in 3 years. The time you spend in the Early Childhood Education program will transform you into an observer, learner and independent decision-maker with an effective teaching style for children. Complete field experiences where you live with children birth to age 8, and become eligible for licensure in Early Childhood and Special Education.

Program Snapshot

Program type: Combined (Major and Master's)
Format: Online
Est. time to complete: 3 years
Credit hours: 84

100% Online Combined Early Childhood Education Degrees

With the online accelerated degree program, you’ll gain a bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education, Special Education minor and master’s in Early Childhood Education. Upon degree completion, you will be eligible for licensure in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. Become a leader in early childhood education as a teacher, mentor, curriculum specialist, early interventionist, or administrator.

As you earn your online early childhood education degree, you’ll focus on children in the context of family, culture and community. You’ll explore developmentally appropriate practices, emergent curriculum, descriptive assessment, and problem-solving approaches to resolving conflict and choices for children. As a student you will experience scholarly application for practitioners and may continue your education to pursue a Doctorate of Education.

How Does an Accelerated Early Childhood Education Program Work?

Early Childhood Education B.S. + Special Education Minor + Early Childhood Education M.S.

The online accelerated degree programs for the M.S. or M.Ed. in Special Education allows those with an associate’s degree in education or currently enrolled undergraduate students at UND an opportunity to complete the requirements for both the bachelor’s and master’s degrees at an accelerated pace. Undergraduates with 60 credits or those currently in an Education degree program are eligible for consideration for the accelerated degree program.

All requirements for both the undergraduate and graduate degrees must be met, and these students may double count up to 12 graduate-level credits towards the requirements for their undergraduate degree and their M.S degree requirements. Accelerated degree students must obtain their M.S degree within 12 months of completing their undergraduate degree, provided that the degree requirements can be completed in that time frame.

Best Online Early Childhood Education Program in the Upper Midwest

The University of North Dakota offers a highly accredited master’s in early childhood education program and has numerous partnerships to provide greater education for current and aspiring educators. UND has a partnership with McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership and offers Aim4Excellence, an engaging and interactive learning experience for developing the
educators' leadership and management competencies.

#14 - Best Early Childhood Education Bachelor's Programs for 2019
#15 - Best Online Master's in Early Childhood Education Program
#18 - The 30 Best Online Master's in Early Childhood Education Degree Programs
#18 - Best Online Master's in Early Education Degree Program
#21 - U.S. News & World Report Best online graduate education program for veterans

Early Childhood Education Program Accreditation

Teacher Education programs at UND are accredited by the Council for Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP). The ECE online program follows the guidelines of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Leaders in Education

Students from across the world are earning their degrees through the online Early Childhood Education Program.

Undergraduate Application Deadlines

FALL: FEB. 1* (FRESHMEN) | APRIL 15* (TRANSFER STUDENTS)
SPRING: DEC. 15
SUMMER: MAY 1
*academic scholarship priority deadline

Students seeking the accelerated degree may apply to the School of Graduate Studies after completing 60 credits.

Graduate Application Deadlines

FALL: JUNE 1* | AUG 1
SPRING: NOV 1* | DEC 1
SUMMER: APR 1* | MAY 1
*designates priority deadline

Early Childhood Education Highlights

- Enjoy the affordability of in-state tuition, regardless of where you live.
- Join the Early Childhood Education Student Organization (ECESO).
- Students have direct involvement with children in more than 60% of the courses.
- Interact in a virtual classroom with online learning that fits your schedule.

Early Childhood Education Jobs

100%
Graduates employed in positions related to their UND early childhood education degree

55k
Median annual pay for kindergarten and elementary school teachers*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics
You'll be eligible for licensure to teach in North Dakota after successfully completing a Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.) with an overall grade point average of at least 2.75, passing state licensure exams and meeting the state's legal requirements with a satisfactory background check.

If seeking a license, you should apply to the North Dakota Education Standards and Practices Board prior to graduation. If you're interested in a teacher license from states other than North Dakota, contact the Advising Office for the College of Education & Human Development.

When You Major in Early Childhood Education

An Early Childhood Education degree gives you the strategic skills you need, including:

- Curriculum Development
- Lesson Planning
- Strategic Planning
- Child Development

Careers in Early Childhood Education

You'll graduate with limitless career opportunities and a solid foundation for working with children ranging in age from 0-8 years old. Students with an early childhood education degree can teach and be a leader in:

- Public schools (PreK and Kindergarten through third grade)
- Early Head Start
- Child care and education centers
- Administration/Director

UND Early Childhood Education Alumni

Early Childhood Education alumni have gone on to a variety of successful careers with:

- Grand Forks Public Schools
- Bismarck Public Schools
- Cartwright School District No. 83
- Headstart
- Mount Ayr Community School, Inc.