Early Childhood Education (Accelerated B.S.Ed./M.Ed. in Special Education)

Graduate with a B.S. in early childhood education and M.Ed. in special education in 3 years.

Special education teachers are in very high demand. UND graduates from the early childhood education program enjoy a 100% employment rate. Get ready to address the educational needs of children under the age of eight, in a variety of settings.

Program Snapshot

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

Why Study Early Childhood and Special Education at UND?

With the accelerated online program, you'll gain a bachelor’s in Early Childhood Education, Special Education minor, and master’s in Special Education with specialization in Early Childhood Education. Upon degree completion, you will be eligible for licensure in Early Childhood Education and Special Education. The degree emphasizes scholarly application for practitioners, and students may continue their education and pursue a Doctor of Education.

As you earn your early childhood education degree online, 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. You will learn online from an interdisciplinary group of faculty members with extensive experience as practitioners, professors and researchers.

How Does an Accelerated Online Education Program Work?

Early Childhood Education B.S. + Special Education Minor + Special Education M.Ed. with a specialization in Early Childhood Education

The online degree programs M.Ed. in Special Education or M.S. in Early Childhood 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 the undergraduate and graduate degrees must be met. You may double count up to 12 graduate-level credits towards the requirements for your undergraduate degree and your M.Ed. degree. You must obtain your M.Ed. degree within 12 months of completing your undergraduate degree, provided that the degree requirements can be completed in that time frame.

Get a Teaching Degree from a Top Ranked Education Program

UND consistently rank among the best for educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes.

#14 - Best Early Childhood Education Bachelor's Programs for 2019

#21 - U.S News & World Report Best online graduate education program for veterans
Accredited Special Education Degree

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

Learning to Lead

After earning his master's degree in Special Education, Dennis Bolda is now a Special Education Strategist.

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 15
SPRING: OCT 15
SUMMER: MAR 15

Online Education Highlights

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

Careers in Special Education

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

57K
Median annual wage for special education teachers

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

Teacher's License

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 Earn a degree in Early Childhood Education - Special 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 - Special 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 a special 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.