Early Childhood Education (M.S.)

Enhance your professional skills in early childhood education through an online master's program ranked among the Top 10 nationwide.

UND's online Master of Science (M.S.) in Early Childhood Education is a non-licensing degree that prepares you to address the educational needs of children under the age of eight, in a variety of settings.

**Program Snapshot**

- **Program type:** Master's Degree
- **Format:** Online
- **Est. time to complete:** 2+ years
- **Credit hours:** 32

**Why Study Early Childhood Education at UND?**

The online M.S. in Early Childhood Education combines theory and research with practical experience. You begin with the belief that the child is a born learner and, as a teacher, you must be an open-minded observer who develops early learning curriculum with the child in mind.

The child is always at the center of our online ECE program. Through online courses and a classroom practicum, you will learn educational methods that emphasize young children in the context of their:

- family
- culture
- community

In addition, through a partnership with the McCormick Center for Early Childhood Leadership, we offer Aim4Excellence, an online national Director Credential for Early Childhood administrators.

**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).

**Top Online Early Childhood Education Program in the Nation**

Every accredited early childhood education program offers education, but not every program prepares students to make a real impact the way UND does. UND is increasingly regarded as one of the top academic and research institutions in the nation for early childhood education. We consistently rank among the best for educational quality, affordability, and career outcomes.

- #2 - Most Affordable Online Master's in Early Childhood Education according to BestValueSchools.com
- #8 - Best Online Master's in Early Education Degree Program

**Application Deadlines**

- **FALL:** June 1* | Aug 1
- **SPRING:** Nov* | Dec 1
- **SUMMER:** Apr 1* | May 1

*designates priority deadline
Program Highlights

- Interact in a virtual classroom with online learning that fits your schedule.
- Enroll in a program named a Top 10 Best Online Master's Program by the Center for Online Education.
- Learn from highly qualified faculty with graduate degrees and extensive experience in teaching graduate-level early childhood education courses.
- Gain hands-on experience through a UND-approved, 60-hour classroom practicum in your community, which can be completed in your own classroom.
- Enjoy the affordability of in-state tuition, regardless of where you live.

Outcomes

7%  Projected growth for kindergarten and elementary school teachers through 2026*
55K  Median annual pay for kindergarten and elementary school teachers*

*U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics

The online Master's in Early Childhood Education program prepares you to teach and be a leader in:

- Public and private schools (Pre-K and Kindergarten through third grade)
- Head Start/Early Head Start programs
- Child care and education centers
- Other programs related to the education of young children
- Administration/Director/Curriculum Specialist
- Early Intervention
- Community college teaching

According to the U.S. Bureau of Labor Statistics, job prospects for preschool, kindergarten and elementary teachers are expected to be favorable. There is a push to improve early childhood education in many states by offering full-day kindergarten and universal preschool programs. These programs, along with projected higher enrollment growth for preschool age children, will create many new jobs for early childhood teachers and educational directors and administrators.