

FCPS/Region 4 Early Childhood Special Education Cohort Program

Master of Education in Special Education

With a Concentration in
Early Childhood Special
Education Licensure



George Mason University, in collaboration with Fairfax County Public Schools and other local school divisions, offers an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Cohort Program. Completion of this cohort program leads to Virginia licensure in ECSE and an MEd in Special Education.

WHERE THIS DEGREE CAN TAKE YOU

You will learn the specialized skills you need to help young children (birth to 5 years) and their families thrive developmentally and socially in their home, community, and school or care settings.

EXAMPLE CAREERS

The master's degree deepens your teaching knowledge and prepares you for work as an Early Childhood Special Educator, Early Interventionist, Assessment/Child Find Specialist, Early Childhood Resource Teacher, or Early Childhood Inclusion Specialist.

FORMAT

- 36 credits, including 10 courses plus a 6-credit internship (it may be possible to complete the internship in an existing position if it meets eligibility requirements)
- 7-week hybrid courses with asynchronous learning and weekly face-to-face classes in a Fairfax County school building
- Two courses per semester, program is completed in six consecutive semesters (spring, summer, and fall)
- Follows the FCPS school calendar for holidays and break periods

EXAMPLE COURSE WORK

- **ECED 501** Developmental Pathways of Diverse Learners, Birth-Adolescence (3 credits)
- **ECED 502** Foundations of Language and Literacy for Diverse Prekindergarten and Kindergarten Learners (3 credits)
- **ECED 503** Inclusive Curriculum for Young Learners Planning Instruction and Guidance (3 credits)
- **ECED 504** Engaging Families of Diverse Young Learners (3 credits)
- **ECED 505** Introduction to Early Childhood Special Education (3 credits)
- **ECED 506** Medical and Developmental Aspects of Disabilities of Diverse Young Learners (3 credits)
- **ECED 511** Assessment of Diverse Young Learners (3 credits)
- **ECED 522** Developing Language, Literacy, and Communication of Diverse Infants and Toddlers (3 credits)
- **ECED 523** Early Intervention for Infants & Toddlers with Disabilities Collaborative & Consultative Approaches (3 credits)
- **ECED 781** Seminar in Early Childhood Education (3 credits)
- **ECED 789** Internship in Early Childhood Special Education Birth - Five (6 credits)

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS

- A completed bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution or international equivalent with a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or GPA of 3.0 in the last 60 hours of study (The university, at its discretion, may, in evaluating the meeting of this requirement, additionally consider the difficulty of the baccalaureate degree, relevant work experience, any/ or other evidence of ability to succeed in graduate study.)
- Two sealed official transcripts from all colleges and universities attended
- Goals statement: 750-1000 words, describing your academic and career goals related to the intended program
- Professional resume or CV
- Two letters of recommendation: professional or academic in nature
- International students may have to meet additional requirements. (Visit go.gmu.edu/GradFAQ for details.)

CONTACT INFORMATION

Early Childhood Special Education
Cohort Program

Thompson Hall, Suite 1200

4400 University Drive MSN 4C2

Fairfax, VA 22030

earlyed@gmu.edu

703-993-3844

FUNDING OPTIONS

25% discount when more than 20 cohort students are enrolled

Or

15% discount for qualified Virginia educators when fewer than 20 cohort students are enrolled

Licensure information

Mason will verify the completion of the requirements of a Virginia Department of Education (VDOE) state-approved preparation program at the graduate level. Such verification does not guarantee the issuance of a Virginia Collegiate Professional Postgraduate Professional license from the Commonwealth of Virginia. It is solely the student's responsibility to comply with all the requirements for licensure by the commonwealth. Under Virginia law, a social security number is required for licensure.