

Plan of Study: Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Special Education (Cross-Endorsement)

Name

Address Street City State Zip Code

Primary Phone E-mail Address

Goals and Focus of the Program:

The Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Special Education is designed for certified teachers who want to expand their expertise in both early childhood and special education. This unique dual-focus program equips educators to support the developmental and learning needs of young children—from Pre-K through Grade 3, including those with disabilities and diverse learning profiles. Aligned with Connecticut Cross-Endorsement Regulations, the program prepares educators for the Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary N–3 and Special Education N–K (#113 endorsement). Coursework integrates child development, inclusive curriculum design, emergent literacy, assessment, and family engagement to prepare professionals to lead classrooms that are both nurturing and inclusive.

Program Design:

Built for working educators, this fully online program combines the flexibility of asynchronous learning with the richness of live weekly online sessions. The program follows a cohort model for real-time collaboration and peer support. Courses are offered in eight-week blocks, one at a time and live class sessions meet one evening per week from 4:45 PM – 8:45 PM. This 30-credit hour program has an accelerated timeline which can be completed in approximately 18-months. Practicum placements are finalized annually, and applications for practicums are due by February 1st.

Prerequisites:

To apply, students must hold a bachelor's degree from a regionally accredited institution (minimum GPA 2.5), have ongoing access to a classroom and students for field-based learning, and be committed to advancing inclusive, developmentally appropriate instruction for all young learners. Applicants seeking cross-endorsement must possess a valid Connecticut teaching license. *The program also welcomes administrators and teachers in early childhood and preschool settings, including those in non-public school environments; however, they are not eligible for cross-endorsement or state licensure through this program.*

Degree Requirements and Career Outcome:

To earn the Master of Arts in Early Childhood Education/Special Education, students must successfully complete all required coursework, and a capstone project embedded within the final independent study course along with fulfilling practicum requirements in Pre-K and Kindergarten settings. Upon completion students who possess a valid Connecticut teaching licensure will be eligible to apply for cross-endorsement under Connecticut's Integrated Early Childhood/Elementary N–3 and Special Education N–K (#113) endorsement. **Please note: This program does not lead to initial teacher certification.** Individuals pursuing the #113 endorsement must also pass the Pearson Early Childhood Test and the Pearson Foundations of Reading Test.

Course	Course Title	Start Week	End Week	Credits
ECSE 530	Parents, Families, and Communication	Mar. 2, 2026	Apr. 27, 2026	3
ECSE 510	Growth and Development in Early Childhood	May 4, 2026	Jun. 22, 2026	3
ECSE 540	Assessment: Pre-K to Grade 3	Aug. 24, 2026	Oct. 12, 2026	3
ECSE 520	Language Development and Emergent Literacy	Oct. 19, 2026	Dec. 7, 2026	3
ECSE 576	Primary Curriculum	Jan. 4, 2027	Feb. 22, 2027	3
ECSE 587	Pre-K to Kindergarten Curriculum	Mar. 1, 2027	Apr. 26, 2027	3
SPEC 535	Laws and Special Education	May 3, 2027	Jun. 21, 2027	3
ECSE 580	Pre-K/K Practicum	Jun. 28, 2027**	Aug. 9, 2027**	6
ECSE 595	Independent Study*	Aug. 30, 2027	Oct. 18, 2027	3

*Master's Capstone Project Included

Total Credit Hours 30

PLAN OF STUDY AGREEMENT: (Initial each line, then sign and date)

- ☐ I have read and understand all information in the Student Information Packet, including important information regarding admissions, transferring credits, refunds, enrollment, and tuition and fees.
- ☐ I understand that this program will be delivered in a fully online format through a combination of synchronous and asynchronous learning activities.
- ☐ I understand the Online Masters for Teachers cohort requires all students to complete their coursework with grades of C or better.
- ☐ I understand that I can only re-take two courses, one time each.
- ☐ I understand that I am expected to submit a course evaluation at the conclusion of each course.
- ☐ I have read and understand this Plan of Study and agree to this Plan of Study Agreement.

Student Signature

Date

Program Director Signature

Date

The courses for this program may be offered in a different order. This list should not be considered the finalized course sequence.

****Dates listed are tentative until practicum placements are finalized. *** Check with Financial Aid regarding funding for summer practicums.**