

Early Childhood Education



MESSIAH
COLLEGE™

SCHOOL OF EDUCATION
AND SOCIAL SCIENCES

Messiah College Teacher Education Program

As a teacher certification student, you will apply for admission to Messiah College's Teacher Education Program in your sophomore year. For more information about the Teacher Education Program, you can visit the following website:

www.messiah.edu/teacher.

The mission of the Teacher Education Program is to develop professional educators who . . .

- facilitate** the learning and development of others consistently,
- reflect** on thoughts and actions deliberately,
- apply** essential knowledge effectively,
- learn** continuously,
- care** for people compassionately, and
- serve** God and society faithfully.



"The greatest strength of the Teacher Education Program at Messiah is the personal interest the professors take in their students. During my experience, professors gave students their phone numbers, e-mail addresses, and invited students into their homes. These master teachers were completely committed to the success of their students."

"Thank you for providing a solid Teacher Education Program for me. I felt well prepared going into student teaching and even more so when I came out."

—Quotes from recent graduates



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Early Childhood Education

The early childhood education program will prepare you to teach preschool through grade three. We believe that teachers are problem-solving professionals. So your early childhood education program will develop your abilities to think, solve problems, and make decisions in critical areas such as instructional planning, instructional delivery, assessment, and classroom management. In addition to your education coursework, you will develop a broad knowledge base by studying a wide variety of subjects such as mathematics, history, biology, literature, foreign language, psychology, and the arts. You also will have the opportunity to deepen your knowledge of an academic subject of your choice by completing a six-credit disciplinary focus.

Curriculum

(Credit hours shown in parentheses)

Education Courses for Early Childhood Education Major (59 credits)

- ECE 210 Introduction to Early Childhood Education (3)
- ECE 212 Language Development (3)
- ECE 221 Early Childhood Education Field Experience (1)
- ECE 306 Creative Expression (3)
- ECE 363 Developmental Programming: Curriculum and Instruction for Early Childhood (3)*
- ECE 365 Theories of Early Learning (3)
- ECE 415 Practices in Early Childhood Education (2)
- ECE 465 Lab School Student Teaching (4)
- EDU 120 The Teaching Profession (1)*
- EDU 201 Education and American Society (3)
- EDU 203 Educational Psychology (3)

One of the following:

- EDU 223 Multicultural Literature for Children and Adolescents (3)
- EDU 226 Children's Literature (3)
- EDU 301 Reading: Curriculum and Instruction for Primary Grades (3)
- EDU 303 Mathematics: Curriculum and Instruction for Primary Grades (3)
- EDU 320 Managing Learning Environments (1)*
- EDU 330 Instructional Design and Assessment for Elementary Education/Early Childhood Education (3)

- EDU 342 Social Studies: Curriculum and Instruction for Elementary School (3)
- EDU 347 Science: Curriculum and Instruction for Elementary School (3)
- EDU 420 Professional Issues in Education (2)
- EDU 434 Student Teaching for Elementary Education (9)

Required Supporting Courses for Early Childhood Education Major (25 credits)

- BIO 106 Life Sciences for Elementary Education (3)
- CSC 171 Problem Solving with Computers (3)
- MAT/STA XXX General Education Mathematics/Statistics (3)
- PSY/FAM 310 Child Development (3)
- GEOG 103 Regional Geography of the World (3)
- HPE 224 Personal Health (3)
- PHS 102 Physical Sciences for Elementary Education (4)

One of the following:

- HIS 103 U.S. History Survey to 1865 (3)
- HIS 104 U.S. History Survey since 1865 (3)

Disciplinary Focus (6 credits)

All students who major in early childhood education must complete a six-credit disciplinary focus to provide depth in an academic discipline other than education. Students elect six credits from a single academic discipline (or two closely related disciplines) other than education. The six credits may not overlap with any other general education or major requirements. Course selections must be approved by the advisor and the education department chair.

*Indicates course that includes a field experience component

Field Experiences

Your early childhood education program will include a set of carefully designed field experiences.

Beginning early in your program, you will have opportunities to observe in local public school classrooms. These focused visits help you learn about the roles and responsibilities of teachers and encourage you to evaluate your choice of teaching as a career. As a junior, you will be actively involved in the classroom as you design and implement your own instructional plans, assess your learners, and assist the classroom teacher with administrative tasks. Your senior year culminates with an entire professional semester that includes a full-time 12-week student teaching experience. College supervisors and experienced classroom teachers work with you to develop your problem-solving and decision-making abilities in a public school classroom. You will also have the opportunity to student teach in the on-campus early learning center.

Although majors and course requirements may change from time to time, as stated in the College catalog, the preceding information is correct according to the 2004–2005 Catalog.



Department of Education

Majors:

Early Childhood Education

Elementary Education

“Messiah’s program is academically challenging and covers all of the major aspects that are relevant to teaching. I was impressed by the professionalism that was instilled in each of us and the remarkable examples set by the professors.”

—Quote from a recent graduate

Department of Education

The Department of Education provides opportunities for students to study the dynamic and complex field of education.

In addition, the Department of Education oversees the Teacher Education Program and all of the teacher certification programs offered through Messiah College.

The mission of the Messiah College Department of Education is to develop exemplary educators who apply their knowledge, skills, Christian faith, and ethical principles to decision making, reflective thinking, and problem solving in diverse learning environments.

Messiah College has a long-standing commitment to high-quality teacher preparation. All of our programs are accredited by the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania, enabling our graduates to obtain Pennsylvania State Teacher Certification. At Messiah, you’ll learn how to apply your developing knowledge and skills in the context of your Christian faith, assisted by experienced education professors.

Our Programs

The Department of Education offers three programs that lead to a B.S. degree and Pennsylvania Instructional I teacher certification.

All of our programs prepare you to design effective instruction for diverse learners, assess student learning, and manage complex learning environments. All three programs provide you with early and continuing field experiences in local public schools and a 12-week supervised student teaching experience.

Early Childhood Education (N–3)

The early childhood education major prepares you to teach in preschools and grades K–3 in public and private schools. As part of your preparation, you will have opportunities to work in the campus Early Learning Center, assuming administrative responsibilities and designing the curriculum.

Elementary Education (K–6)

The elementary education major prepares you to teach grades K–6 in public and private schools. The major includes an 18-credit disciplinary focus—a wonderful opportunity for you to declare a minor in an academic discipline that interests you.

Special Education (N–12, Cognitive, Behavior and Physical/Health Disabilities)

Special education is offered as a dual certification program with elementary education. You will major in elementary education and complete certification requirements for both elementary and special education. The special education program will prepare you to differentiate instruction, diagnose individual learner needs, and manage state and federal regulations.

The Department of Education also offers three minors and one concentration:

Education Minor

The 18-credit education minor provides an opportunity for any Messiah College student to study the field of education without completing a teacher certification program.

Early Childhood Education Minor (and Private Nursery School Certification)

The 28-credit early childhood education minor is available to any Messiah College student who is interested in working with young children. Students who complete the

minor are eligible for Private Nursery School Certification through the Pennsylvania Department of Education.

Urban and Multicultural Education Minor

This 18-credit minor is designed to provide opportunities for teacher certification students to study the variables and dynamics associated with urban educational settings and culturally diverse learners. Students complete the minor with a combination of courses and field experiences taken at Messiah College and Temple University in Philadelphia.

Special Education Concentration

This 12-credit concentration enables elementary and early childhood education majors to enhance their knowledge and skills in the field of special education without pursuing the certification program.

Our Faculty

Education faculty hold doctoral degrees from a variety of major universities, including Indiana, Rutgers, Maryland, Oregon, Idaho, and Penn State.

In addition to teaching, we are actively involved in scholarly activities such as writing books and journal articles, presenting at conferences, and working with local schools. Most importantly, our professors are caring, committed Christians who want to help you develop academically, spiritually, and personally.

Opportunities for Our Students

We encourage our students to become involved in a variety of activities and learning opportunities.

Students in our elementary and early childhood education majors volunteer for tutoring programs in local schools and community centers, assist with Special Olympics held annually on-campus, participate in the Messiah College Education Association (MCEA), perform in musical and theatre groups, work in local church children’s programs, and compete on the College’s athletic teams. You will have enough flexibility in your program to take cross-cultural trips or study abroad for a semester. If you are interested in urban schools, you have the opportunity to live in Harrisburg and work in Harrisburg city schools. You can also spend a semester at the Philadelphia Campus taking classes at Temple University and working in the city’s schools.

A Note to Transfer Students

We welcome transfer students to inquire about our teacher certification programs.

Because teacher certification programs are regulated by the Pennsylvania Department of Education, it is best to make your decision to transfer to Messiah College as early as possible in your college career. Each certification program has specific course requirements, and there are particular courses and experiences that must be taken at the Grantham Campus. As a transfer student, you should be particularly aware of the special requirements for admission to the Teacher Education Program. For current requirements, check the website: www.messiah.edu/teacher.

Our Graduates

Our graduates are very successful in obtaining full-time teaching positions.

They can be found around the world teaching successfully in public and private schools or serving in various ministry/mission settings. Many of our students go on to pursue graduate degrees in disciplines such as school psychology, counseling, school administration, special education, educational psychology, and others.