



## Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support (ECIFS)

**Teacher Leaders in Early Intervention/Early Childhood Special Education:  
Focus on Socioculturally Diverse Children and Families Experiencing Poverty**



Early childhood professionals interested in joining a part-time master's degree program in Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support (ECIFS) are invited to apply to the Summer 2014 cohort in our Master of Education for Experienced Teachers (M.Ed.) program. The ECIFS program provides leadership in implementing evidence based family support and child focused curricula and assessment for young children ages birth to five with a specialization on working with high need children and families experiencing poverty. The program is interdisciplinary with a focus on collaboration with professional team members and families. The program is designed for working professionals with classes offered at a convenient off campus location late in the day and during the summer. Coursework begins May 2014.

### Program Features

The program offers degree paths for licensed and non-licensed early childhood professionals. Option One is for currently-licensed teachers. Option Two is for individuals with a bachelor's degree in early childhood development or a closely-related field and 2–3 years of successful lead teaching experience but who do not have a teaching license. (Option Two students may be required to take additional coursework to complete the program.)

Program graduates will earn a master's degree and be eligible for NC master's-level licensure for Birth–Kindergarten. Students interested in specializing in young children with disabilities and their families from diverse high need communities have the opportunity to receive **full tuition and stipend support** from a U.S. Office of Education grant. Once admitted, 15–16 students will be awarded this grant opportunity.

### Additional Information

To learn more about the ECIFS Program of studies visit  
[http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med\\_exp/ecifs.php](http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med_exp/ecifs.php)

For additional information about financial aid, admissions requirements and other details, visit

[http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med\\_exp/faq.php](http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med_exp/faq.php)

Application Deadline is March 11, 2014. Only completed applications including the online application, fee, and all supporting documentation, will be considered. Instructions are available on the School of Education website at <http://soe.unc.edu/services/apply/>

For further information contact:

Rachel Winters at [rwinters@email.unc.edu](mailto:rwinters@email.unc.edu) or for cohort specific information contact Dr. Harriet Able at [hable@email.unc.edu](mailto:hable@email.unc.edu)



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## Frequently Asked Questions

### **Can I work while being a student in the B-K Add-On Licensure and M.Ed. ECIFS programs?**

Yes, the program is designed to accommodate practicing professionals' schedules by offering courses in the late afternoon, evenings, and during the summer months. Selected internship experiences can be completed in practicing professionals' work settings.

### **Do you offer online courses?**

Currently this program is not a fully online program. However, we do at times offer individual courses that are fully or partially online.

### **How long does it take to complete the M.Ed. ECIFS program?**

Students are admitted to the program by cohorts and complete the program together. Cohorts begin in May (Summer Session 1) and complete their work in the spring two years later. However, students choosing Option Two are required to enroll in additional coursework and a supervised internship which may delay their program completion.

### **What must I do to obtain a teaching license?**

You must meet or complete the prerequisites described under Admission Requirements, complete the M.Ed. coursework, and provide verification from a unit administrator and University supervisor and apply for B-K teacher licensure through the North Carolina Department of Public Instruction.

### **May I enter the M.Ed. ECIFS program in semesters other than Summer Session 1?**

No. The M.Ed. ECIFS program is now cohort based and only accepts applications in the spring. Applications are due March 11, 2014. Some students register for courses through the Friday Center for Continuing Education prior to their formal admittance. However, they should not register for more than six credit hours of continuing education coursework.

### **Will courses taken at another institution of higher education fulfill the EDUC courses in this program?**

All courses in the M.Ed. ECIFS program and the required prerequisite courses are designed specifically to meet the needs of students in this program and the standards for N.C. B-K teaching licensure. Therefore, courses will be waived or substituted only on an individual basis with advisor and instructor permission. No more than six credit hours of graduate coursework taken elsewhere may be transferred in to fulfill courses in this program.

### **Must my current teaching licensure be Birth–Kindergarten?**

Your current teaching license does not have to be Birth–Kindergarten—it is preferred that you have a license and experience in one of the following areas: Special Education and Elementary Education. If you do not have experience in one of these areas, you may be required to enroll in additional internship hours in order to obtain more experience working with young children.

