

## Part-Time Master's Degree Program in Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support

Early childhood professionals interested in joining a part-time master's degree program in early childhood and early childhood special education are invited to apply to the **Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support (ECIFS)** cohort in our **Master of Education for Experienced Teachers (M.Ed.)** program. The program is designed for working professionals, with classes offered online and evenings at a convenient location in Chapel Hill. Courses for the next cohort will begin in early May 2015. Students who complete the program will earn a master's degree and be eligible for NC master's level licensure for Birth-Kindergarten (B-K). Students may also specialize in young children with disabilities and their families from diverse, high need communities and in social inclusion.

Program features include: (1) interdisciplinary course and internship experiences with students and faculty in allied health and psychology; (2) participatory action research experiences with early education intervention practitioners, family members, and program faculty; (3) a focus on young children and their families in inclusive and natural, community-based settings; and (4) collaboration with research scientists at the Frank Porter Graham Child Development Institute.

A special feature of the program includes a required weeklong, site-based [experiential learning component](#) that will take place the week of June 21st as part of the initial course sequence. Students can choose to spend the week at a North Carolina Outward Bound site or the Durham Public School Hub Farm.

### Two Options for Licensed and Non-Licensed Early Childhood Professionals

This cohort offers degree paths for licensed and non-licensed early childhood professionals. Option One is designed for [currently licensed teachers](#). Option Two is designed for individuals with a bachelor's degree in early childhood development or a closely related field from a regionally accredited higher education institution and 2-3 years of successful lead teaching experience in an early childhood setting but who do not have a teaching license. Option Two students are required to take additional course work in order to complete the program. Completers who wish to be highly qualified for kindergarten must also pass the [required exam](#).

### Additional Information about the Program

- The ECIFS program of studies and cohort description, experiential learning opportunities, and other information about the M.Ed. program can be found at [http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med\\_exp/](http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med_exp/)
- For additional information about **financial aid**, admissions requirements and other details, please refer to our FAQ link ( [http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med\\_exp/faq.php](http://soe.unc.edu/academics/med_exp/faq.php))
- The **Application Deadline** is **March 10, 2015**. Instructions for applying are available on the School of Education website at <http://soe.unc.edu/services/apply/> Only completed applications, including the online application, fee, and all supporting documentation, will be considered.

### For more information contact:

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## ***Early Childhood Intervention and Family Support (ECIFS)***

### **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, typically scheduled during summer months.

**Do you offer online courses?**

Currently this program is not a fully online program. However, we do offer some 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 early 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. Completers who wish to be highly qualified for kindergarten must also pass the [required exam](#).

**May I enter the M.Ed. ECIFS program in semesters other than summer?**

No. The M.Ed. ECIFS program is now cohort based and only accepts applications in the spring. Applications are due March 10, 2015.

**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 within the past five years 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.

