

Early Childhood Education Checklist

The University of Pittsburgh, School of Education, offers an Early Childhood Education Program to prepare students to teach young children (birth to age 8) and to work collaboratively with their families and other professionals. Students will develop skills for employment in public and private schools and centers, homes, and other facilities in which children within this age range and their families are served. Through coursework and field experiences with infants, toddlers, preschoolers, and primary-aged children, students acquire competence in the use of developmentally appropriate practices. Special emphasis is placed on understanding and respecting family diversity, supporting families in their roles with young children, and supporting children with special needs in inclusive settings. The program is designed for full-time study, but may be adapted for part-time study. Details are outlined below.

To be considered for admission, applicants need to have:

- submitted a completed [School of Education application](#) form and the application fee
- earned an undergraduate degree with a minimum QPA of 3.0 (applications from students who plan to earn their undergraduate degree before the term of admission will be considered)
- submitted official transcripts from all institutions attended
- submitted a copy of the spring registration form if enrolled in spring term courses
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in [Academic Prerequisites](#)
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in [Chapter 354.23 Prerequisites](#)
- completed the appropriate number of prerequisite credit hours in [Education Prerequisites](#)
- submitted evidence of passing scores on the PRAXIS I test series (reading, writing, and mathematics)
- submitted three letters of academic and/or professional recommendation
- submitted a thoughtful, clearly written goal statement of two to three double-spaced typewritten pages
- submitted a resumé

MEETING OR EXCEEDING THE APPLICATION CRITERIA DOES NOT GUARANTEE ADMISSION

The application deadline is January 15 of the admission year. If you have any questions, please contact the Admission and Enrollment Services office at 412-648-2230.

The Early Childhood Certification Program is intended for individuals from a wide-range of undergraduate backgrounds including, Communication Science and Disorders, Psychology, Child Care/Child Development, Law, Business, Social Work or other related fields of study, who wish to pursue careers as Early Childhood Educators.

The program follows the personnel recommendations established by the Association for Teacher Educators (ATE), the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and the Division for Early Childhood of the Council for Exceptional Children (DEC).

A student who successfully completes the program, including the PRAXIS I and II Exams, and the PA Statewide Evaluation Form for Student Professional Knowledge and Practice (PDE 430) is eligible to apply for a Pennsylvania Instructional I Certificate for Nursery School – Grade 3.

The Certification Program in Early Childhood Education - Professional Year (PY) Program

- prepares qualified liberal arts and science graduates for initial certification in Early Childhood Education
- lasts two consecutive terms for full-time students – fall and spring (late August – late April)
- consists primarily of evening courses
- for full-time students, requires four full days per week at practicum and Pre-Kindergarten student teaching sites in Fall term and five days a week in a primary-aged classroom (Kindergarten-Grade 3) in the Spring term.

Compliance with all Federal and PA state clearances is required before entering schools. Information on how to obtain these clearances is available at www.education.pitt.edu/clearances.

Apply online at www.education.pitt.edu/apply

Academic Prerequisites (18 credits)

CourseNo.	Course Title	GR		Credits
			Children’s Literature	3
			Science Laboratory or Field Course (preferably an Environmental Studies focus)	3
			American History	3
			Child Development (must include a Language Development emphasis)	3
IL 1473			Math for Elementary Teachers	3
HPA 1491			Health and Wellness Physical Education (must emphasize Wellness)	3

Chapter 354.23 Prerequisites

Section 354.23 of the Pennsylvania Department of Education teacher certification requirements states that all prospective candidates must take at least 6 semester hour credits in college level English and 6 semester hour credits in Mathematics with a grade of C or better.

Course No.	Course Title	GR		Credits
			College Level English Composition (or the equivalent*)	3
			College Level American or British Literature (or the equivalent)	3
			College Level Mathematics (or the equivalent*)	3
			College Level Mathematics (or the equivalent*)	3

*SAT II writing subject test score of 600 or above satisfies the three credit English composition requirement.

*A Math SAT II score of 560 or above, or a college or university Algebra Placement Test, or the successful completion of an Advanced Placement Mathematics class that appears on your institution’s transcript, satisfies three credits of the Math requirement

Education Prerequisites (15 credits)

Education prerequisites must be taken prior to the fall term of the PY program.

The following approved clearances are required before taking Introduction to Early Childhood Education and Foundations of Special Education: Federal Criminal History Record, Act 34 – PA State Police Criminal Record Check, and Act 33/151 PA Child Abuse History. Forms may be obtained in 5300 Wesley Posvar Hall, or from our clearances information page.

Course No.	Course Title	GR		Credits
IL 1041			Introduction to Early Childhood Education	3
			Social Foundations of Education OR Education and Society	3
IL 1580			Foundations of Special Education	3
IL 1045 OR IL 1257			Young English Language Learners OR Instructing English Language Learners	3
IL 2206			Reading and Language Arts: Primary Grades	3

Professional Year (PY) Instructional I Certificate Options

FULL-TIME CERTIFICATION OPTION (30 CREDITS)

Fall Term

IL 2523	Literacy Assessment & Instruction	3 credits
IL 2904	Teaching Young Children in Inclusive Classrooms	5 credits
IL 2501	Students with Disabilities in the Elementary Classroom	3 credits
IL 2800	Student Teaching Early Childhood Education	3 credits
IL 2707	Field Seminar-Early Childhood Education	1 credit

J Term (January)

IL 2902	Teaching Primary-Aged Child 1	3 credits
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Spring Term

IL 2906	Seminar: Community Resources: Young Children & Family	2 credits
IL 2903	Teaching Primary-Aged Child 2	3 credits
IL 2905	Teaching Infants, Toddlers, Preschoolers	3 credits
IL 2800	Student Teaching Early Childhood Education	3 credits
IL 2707	Field Seminar-Early Childhood Education	1 credit

PART-TIME CERTIFICATION OPTION (30 CREDITS)

Part-time students may take coursework on a part-time basis. To fulfill the two student teaching experiences, however, students must complete 12 weeks of full-time student teaching in a primary setting, and 36 days of full-time student teaching in a preschool setting.

**For further information concerning program offerings,
please contact:**

Department of Instruction and Learning
5300 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone 412-624-7254

Application Questions? Contact:

Admissions and Enrollment Services
School of Education
5500 Wesley W. Posvar Hall
University of Pittsburgh
Pittsburgh, PA 15260
Telephone 412-648-2230
Online Applications available at:
<http://www.education.pitt.edu/apply>