Early Intervention Overview

The Early Intervention area of concentration in the Special Education Program focuses on young children with disabilities (ages birth to five) and their families. As a field, early intervention promotes the following benefits in this population:

- Minimizes the potential for developmental delay and reduces the impact of disabling conditions
- Reduces the overall cost of educational services through prevention and attenuation
- Enhances the capabilities of families to meet the needs of their children
- Minimizes the likelihood of institutionalization of children with special needs
- Maximizes the developmental potential of young children to eventually live independently in society

The Early Intervention program prepares practitioners in the assessment and educational programming of young children with disabilities. Emphasis is placed on working in partnership with families and collaborating with professionals from other disciplines who also provide services to these young children. The program incorporates material about the wide-variety of program types in which young children are served including their homes, schools, centers, clinics, hospitals, and community settings. Natural and other inclusive environments are stressed.

GRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS
- Early Intervention
- Early Intervention: Autism Specialization

PREREQUISITE COURSEWORK
- The two three-credit prerequisite courses for master's degree (Foundations of Special Education and Child Development) should be taken prior to beginning the program.

PENNSYLVANIA BEHAVIOR SPECIALIST LICENSURE
- The Early Intervention program covers most of the evidence-based coursework required for the PA Specialist Licensure.
- The EI: Autism Specialization Program covers all of the required coursework.

Admissions Requirements
- Completed School of Education online admissions application
- A nonrefundable application fee of $50 (USD) by credit card, check, or money order made payable to University of Pittsburgh
- Official transcripts from all undergraduate and graduate institutions attended (grade point averages of at least 3.0 in undergraduate study and 3.5 in graduate study are recommended)
- Official third-party evaluation of all international transcripts for applicants who have not received a master's degree within the United States (we strongly recommend using World Education Services to complete this service)
- A current résumé or curriculum vitae
- A written statement of career goals and degree objectives
- Scores from the Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) for all applicants whose native language is not English and/or who have not finished academic degree requirements in an English-medium college or university.
- Three letters of recommendation

FOR MORE INFORMATION

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COMPETITIVE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE

FACEBOOK
University of Pittsburgh Early Intervention Program

FALL DEADLINE
Graduate Priority Admission: March 1
Applications received after March 1 may be considered if there is space available
2017-18 Tuition & Financial Aid

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LOAN TYPES
- Direct Stafford Loans (also called Direct Loans)
- Grad PLUS Loans (also called Direct PLUS Loans)
- Private education loans are available through a wide range of private financial institutions.


GRADUATE DEGREE OPTIONS

EARLY INTERVENTION
MASTER OF EDUCATION (MED)

The Early Intervention program is an academic Master’s program that prepares individuals to work with young children with disabilities (ages birth to 5 years) and their families. A hands-on, carefully supervised approach is used to assist students in developing competence in assessing young children with a variety of disabilities and planning, implementing, and evaluating appropriate educational programs for them.

Students are taught to work in partnership with families and to collaborate with professionals from other disciplines. Consideration is given to a wide range of service delivery models including home, center, school, and hospital-based programs.

Special emphasis is placed on preparing students to address the needs of young children with disabilities in natural, community settings that are designed for the inclusion of all children through direct and consultative service delivery.

STRUCTURE
- The 37-credit (three full-time semesters) program includes coursework in assessment, programming, working with families, inclusion, consultation, community resources, research, and leadership.
- Three supervised practicum experiences are integrated into the program and students work with their advisors to selected two electives to complete their requirements.

EARLY INTERVENTION: AUTISM SPECIALIZATION
MASTER OF EDUCATION (MED)

The Early Intervention with Autism Specialization program is an academic Master’s program that adds an additional focus to the Early Intervention program. According to the Center for Disease Control, 1 in 68 children has an Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD). Specialized, intensive intervention approaches have been found to greatly improve the outcomes of children with autism, particularly when implemented early in life.

The Early Intervention with Autism Specialization program is intended to provide students with knowledge and skills to accurately implement a variety of interventions developed for young children with autism. Student complete courses in the characteristics of autism, applied behavior analysis, strategies for improving social skills and communication, and technology-based interventions.

The program also includes a focus on teaching parents, other caregivers, and service providers to implement interventions as a means for further enhancing positive outcomes of children with autism.

STRUCTURE
- The 46-credit (four full-time semesters) program includes coursework in autism characteristics/interventions, social communication in ASD, applied behavior analysis, and use of technology-based interventions.
- Three supervised practicum experiences with a focus on working with families and young children with ASD are required.
- As part of the specialization, students take three of the six Applied Behavior Analysis courses required to become Board Certified Behavior Analysts (BCBA) and may begin to accumulate BCBA hours.