ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The early childhood education program develops students in early childhood education to work with children from birth through Kindergarten in addition to elementary PK-3 certification. Graduates work in the pre-K and elementary school settings as preschool teachers, early interventionists, curriculum and professional development specialists, early childhood special education teachers, and elementary education teachers.

ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Students begin their studies in the pre-professional program. Special admission is required into the professional, upper-level courses (typically after the students sophomore year).

→ Completion of 35 credits
→ Completion of all WMU intellectual skills development requirements, if required
→ Completion of an approved college-level writing course with a grade of “C” or better
→ Completion of ED 2500: Human Development, or an approved course, with a grade of “CB” or better
→ Achievement of a cumulative grade point average of 3.0 or higher
→ Completion of background check and submission of Judgment of Sentence or Register of Action for any convictions, if necessary
→ Completion and submission of a formal application to the CEHD Office of Admissions and Advising
CAREER POSSIBILITIES

- Certified to teach early childhood birth through age 8 (e.g. preschool classroom, Head Start programs, etc.)
- Teaching years B-K
- Teaching grades PK-3 in all subjects

STUDY ABROAD

- The department offers short-term, education-related study abroad opportunities in Ireland, Nepal, and Peru. These faculty-led programs allow students to learn about educational systems outside of the United States.
- Students also have the opportunity to complete part of their student teaching experience abroad in New Zealand, which is known worldwide for its innovative approaches to teaching literacy.

STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

- Future Teachers of Color
- Kappa Delta Pi International Honor Society in Education
- Western Student Education Association

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

- Accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation and the National Association for the Education of Young Children.
- Passing scores on the elementary education test (103) and early childhood test (106) are required for teacher certification.
- Pre-intern experiences are clustered in the greater Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area to facilitate student engagement in the schools while completing on-campus coursework. Internships are available in the greater Kalamazoo-Battle Creek community, the Grand Rapids-Muskegon area and Metro Detroit.

“MY INTERNSHIP SHOWED ME HOW TO ARRANGE MY KNOWLEDGE FROM COURSES INTO AN ACTION PLAN.”

Michelle Krieger, early childhood education alumna