

# EARLY CHILDHOOD UNIFIED EDUCATION

 [wmich.edu/teaching/academics](https://wmich.edu/teaching/academics)

Bachelor of Science



## ABOUT THE PROGRAM

The early childhood unified education program develops students to work with young children from birth through Kindergarten. Students are also eligible for elementary certification in Birth-Kindergarten and PK-3 grade bands. 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.



**My internship showed me how to arrange my knowledge from courses into an action plan.**

 Michelle Krieger, alumna



The WMU teacher education programs are **accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation (CAEP)**.



Michigan school principals ranked **99% of new teachers prepared at WMU as “effective” or “highly effective”** in 2020-21.

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**WESTERN MICHIGAN UNIVERSITY**  
College of Education  
and Human Development

## MAJOR INFORMATION

**Early Childhood Unified Education: B-K and PK-3** prepares students for work in a variety of early care and classroom settings serving infants through children in 3rd grade. The major integrates courses focused on child development, diverse family and community relationships, early childhood education and special education, and content area knowledge and pedagogy.

*Graduates can be eligible for Michigan certification in the B-K and PK-3 grade bands.*

## CAREER OPPORTUNITIES

- B-K Early childhood general and special education (e.g., preschool classroom, Head Start programs, Great Start Readiness Programs)
- PK-3 Lower elementary (Preschool through third grade)

## PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS

**Students begin their studies in the pre-professional program and apply to take professional program courses after completing the requirements listed below (typically after sophomore year).**

- Completion of at least 35 credits
- Completion of all WMU intellectual skills development courses, if required
- Completion of an approved college-level writing course
- Completion of ED 2500: Human Development or FCS 2140: Child Development with a grade of "CB" or better
- Achievement of a cumulative GPA of 3.0 or higher
- Completion of background check and submission of any necessary additional documentation
- Completion and submission of a formal application to the CEHD Office of Admissions and Advising

## STUDENT ORGANIZATIONS

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

## ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Pre-intern experiences are clustered in the greater Kalamazoo-Battle Creek area to facilitate student engagement in the schools while completing on-campus coursework. Student teaching internships are available in the greater Kalamazoo-Battle Creek, Grand Rapids-Muskegon and Metro Detroit areas.



### STUDY ABROAD

Students have the opportunity to complete part of their student teaching experience in **New Zealand**, which is known worldwide for its innovative approaches to teaching literacy.

Additionally, the college 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.



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