

Master of Arts

Special Education: Early Childhood

UNC Denver Center at Lowry



About the Program

The Early Childhood/Early Childhood Special Education program is open to candidates whose interests lie anywhere along the early childhood and early childhood special education continuum. This master's program blends early childhood and early childhood special education to support intervention of children from birth to eight years of age in inclusive settings. The program has a strong focus on promoting families as partners; collaborative and cross-disciplinary service approaches; recommended intervention practices that are based on research evidence; and appropriate practices for working with children and families across a range of abilities and cultural experiences.

This program serves adult learners who have jobs, families, and other responsibilities. The program is offered in a hybrid model, meaning some classes in a course meet face-to-face during weekends and evenings in Denver and some classes are delivered in an online format. You study side-by-side with other professionals—sharing ideas, problems and successes related to the everyday challenges you face. For your convenience, additional advising and instruction is also offered using distance technologies.

The School of Special Education at the University of Northern Colorado has a long history of excellence in the preparation of special education teachers. Degrees and endorsements awarded through extended programs carry the same academic recognition as those earned on the Greeley campus.



Degree/Endorsement Earned

Candidates may earn either a master's degree or an endorsement. Those who have earned a master's degree in another area may either apply for a second master's degree or a non-degree licensure in ECSE or both ECSE and EC. This licensure/endorsement applies to a variety of career settings working with children up to 8 years old in schools, early intervention programs including Head Start and Early Head Start, child care programs, family support and home-based programs.

The master's program with endorsement consists of 36 credit hours and the endorsement only program is 33 credit hours. The exact course requirement and program length is dependent on the applicants' prior coursework/license/degree and how many credit hours the applicant may be able to take in a semester.

Candidates who wish to pursue an *initial* teacher's license will need to take additional courses (up to 9 credit hours) through UNC's Professional Teacher Education Program (PTEP). These PTEP courses may be taken alongside your degree level courses.

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Key Benefits

- Take courses designed to fit your schedule
- Learn through both expert faculty and practical field application
- Discover new resources and contacts
- Develop helpful perspectives on current trends
- Interact with leaders in special education and early childhood
- Synthesize your personal talents and interests
- Apply theory in practical ways
- Transfer new and enhanced skills to your professional work with families and children
- Demonstrate greater expertise in your field

Program Courses

CANDIDATES IN THE EC/ECSE PROGRAM WILL TYPICALLY TAKE THE FOLLOWING COURSES:

- EDSE 510: Foundations of Special Education
- EDSE 511: Learning Environments and Cultural Considerations
- EDSE 512: Assessment, IEP Development, and Instructional Planning
- EDSE 530: Parent/Professional Partnerships
- EDSE 531: Applied Assessment in ECSE
- EDSE 532: Typical and Atypical Early Child Development
- EDSE 533: Curriculum and Instruction in ECSE
- EDSE 534: Research & Policy in EC/ECSE
- EDSE 616: Scientifically-Based Literacy Interventions
- SRM 600: Introduction to Graduate Research (*required for Master's degree candidates only*)
- EDSE 535: Practicum in ECSE (2 credits each to cover 0-3, 3-5, & 5-8 age ranges)

Quality Education from the Leader in Teacher Preparation

HIGH STANDARDS

UNC is fully accredited by the Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association. We offer accredited programs and maintain high teaching standards.

EXCEPTIONAL FACULTY

Highly qualified UNC faculty and course instructors will provide instruction in your courses. Program faculty are committed to the development of broadly-based, competent professionals who are skilled in helping people with personal and career concerns. Our faculty members provide a strong connection between current theory and best practice through close collaboration and research activities with national and state educational leaders.

AN EDUCATIONAL LEADER

Since its founding more than 100 years ago, the University of Northern Colorado has been at the educational forefront. Today, UNC prides itself on its quality, diversity and personal approach. We offer a wide range of quality academic programs on the Greeley campus and at sites throughout Colorado via distance delivery formats, both site-based and online. Degrees and endorsements awarded through extended programs carry the same academic recognition as those earned on the Greeley campus.

This program is offered as part of the statewide coordinated program of off-campus instruction authorized by and in compliance with policies of the Colorado Department of Higher Education. Tuition Rates for the extended degree programs differ from those for the on-campus programs. Please contact the Office of Extended Studies at (970) 351-2944, (303) 637-4320, or (800) 232-1749 for current rates.

How and When Can I Apply?

You must 1) possess a baccalaureate degree from an accredited college or university, 2) pass the elementary content exam (PLACE or PRAXIS II) OR provide proof of current teaching licensure, and 3) have a grade point average of at least 3.0 in the most recent 60 hours of academic work. In lieu of GPA, a score of at least 900 on the Graduate Record Examination (GRE) will be accepted.

SUBMIT TO UNC'S GREELEY OFFICE OF EXTENDED STUDIES

___ *Notice of Intent to Apply* form—Available online:
www.unco.edu/extendedstudies → Choose *Forms*

SUBMIT TO THE GRADUATE SCHOOL

- ___ Completed *UNC Graduate School Application for Admission*
- ___ Two (2) *Letter of Recommendation* Forms with letters attached
- ___ \$50 application processing fee
- ___ Statement of Educational Philosophy and Goals
- ___ Academic transcripts from each college or university you have attended since high school (except UNC)
- ___ Photocopy of official GRE scores if your GPA is less than 3.0 (GPA based on the last 60 hours of a semester system, or 90 hours of a quarter system)
- ___ Photocopy of current Elementary Education Teaching License **OR** Photocopy of official PLACE or PRAXIS II Elementary Content scores if you DO NOT have a current license in Elementary Education.

After the Graduate School has determined that minimum university requirements have been met, your materials will be forwarded to the School of Special Education for consideration.



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Financial Assistance Is Available

Students enrolled in UNC degree and licensure programs may be eligible for financial aid. Obtain detailed information from the UNC Office of Financial Aid. (see contact information below)

OFFICE OF FINANCIAL AID

Campus Box 33
Greeley, CO 80639
(Identify yourself as an off-campus student)
carlos.barrientos@unco.edu or (970) 351-2502
www.unco.edu/ofa

Whom Do I Contact?

APPLICATION PROCEDURE, PROGRAM AND ADVISEMENT QUESTIONS

Rashida Banerjee, Ph.D.

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Coordinator, Special Education: Early Childhood
rashida.banerjee@unco.edu or (970) 351-1184
UNC School of Special Education
Campus Box 141
Greeley, CO 80639

GRADUATE SCHOOL

Carter Hall 2007
Campus Box 135
Greeley, CO 80639
grad.school@unco.edu or (970) 351-2831
www.unco.edu/grad

NOTICE OF INTENT TO APPLY OFFICE OF EXTENDED STUDIES

Campus Box 21
University of Northern Colorado
Greeley, CO 80639
(970) 351-2944 | (303) 637-4320 | (800) 232-1749
Fax: (970) 351-2519
esinfo@unco.edu
www.unco.edu/extendedstudies

MORE INFORMATION ONLINE

www.unco.edu/extendedstudies → choose Extended Degree Programs
→ Look for Special Education M.A. - Early Childhood Emphasis

Please contact us for information on additional programs offered at the Colorado Springs, Loveland, Greeley and Denver sites; online; and throughout the state.

The University of Northern Colorado is an equal opportunity/affirmative action institution that does not discriminate on the basis of race, color, national origin, age, disability, creed, religion, sexual preference or veteran status. For more information or issues equity or fairness or claims of discrimination contact the UNC AA/ EEO/Title IX Officer at UNC Human Resource Services, Carter Hall 2002, Greeley, CO 80639 or call 970-351-2718

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