

Special Education: Early Childhood Special Education Emphasis

Master of Arts



Experiential Learning, Flexible Options

The blended Master of Arts program in Early Childhood and Early Childhood Special Education (EC/ECSE) is designed to prepare outstanding early childhood educators to meet the unique educational needs of children from birth through age 8. This program helps to develop a range of specialized skills for individuals who work in classrooms and community-based settings with children who are at-risk and

their families. At UNC we promote an inclusive approach to early education which is distinguished by a strong student-faculty connection. The program also includes extensive field-based experiences with children in three age-groups: birth to 2 years, 3 to 5 years and 5 to 8 years. At the end of the program, candidates may earn either a master's degree or a non-degree licensure in ECSE or both ECSE and EC.

Degree Options

The Early Childhood Special Education M.A. program is designed for working professionals and courses are offered in three delivery options:

- 16-week, face-to-face format at Greeley campus
- 16-week, online format
- 8-week, combination of online and weekend classes in Denver

Program Details

- Greeley Campus Delivery: Classes start Spring and Fall semesters with rolling admissions throughout the year
- Extended Campus: Online and Denver Center at Lowry delivery options, classes start any term, more at [EXTENDED.UNCO.EDU](https://extended.unco.edu)
- Credits Required: Endorsement-only: 33; Master's with endorsement: 36
- Time to completion: Two years

Once you successfully complete the program you may be eligible for the following licensures and/or endorsements:

- Colorado Department of Education (CDE) Early Childhood Special Education Generalist License/Endorsement
- CDE Early Childhood Special Education Specialist Endorsement
- CDE Early Childhood Education Endorsement
- Colorado Department of Human Services Child Care Director's License

Career Pathway

Graduates of UNC's program are prepared to work in a variety of settings including public schools, Head Start programs, childcare programs, early intervention programs and family support and home-based programs. Many of our graduates work in preschools, kindergartens or up to third grade.

Financing your Education

UNC offers a variety of financial support options, including:

- Several competitive graduate assistantships
- Colorado resident tuition (for Greeley-campus students from 15 western states is offered through the Western Regional Graduate Program. To see if you qualify visit [UNCO.EDU/ GRADUATE-SCHOOL/FUNDING/WESTERN-REGIONAL-GRADUATE-PROGRAM.ASPX](https://unco.edu/graduate-school/funding/western-regional-graduate-program.aspx).
- For more information contact Financial Aid at [UNCO.EDU/FINANCIAL-AID/](https://unco.edu/financial-aid/).

Related Programs

- Special Education: Deaf and Hard of Hearing, M.A.
- Special Education: Intervention Specialist, M.A.
- Special Education: Generalist, M.A.
- Special Education: Gifted and Talented, M.A.
- Special Education: Visual Impairment, M.A.

Cost and Value

Tuition rates are based on the 2021-22 Academic Year:

Colorado Resident Tuition: \$577 per credit hour plus fees.

Nonresident Tuition: \$1,145 per credit hour plus fees.

Extended Campus: \$572 per credit hour. This is an Extended Campus program, which means a flat per-credit tuition rate for all students (in-state or out-of-state).

UNC is regularly called out as a top value for both resident and nonresident students, and the university offers financial aid packages for qualified students. For more information, visit [UNCO.EDU/COSTS](https://unco.edu/costs).

Faculty Spotlight

Hasan Zaghlawan, Ph.D.

Hasan Zaghlawan, Ph.D., is the coordinator of the master's in Special Education: Early Childhood Special Education Emphasis program in the School of Special Education at UNC. His research interests are: children's engagement, social and emotional development, teacher preparation, single-case research methodology. He has published several articles and regularly presents at state, national and international conferences.

Program Contact

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About UNC Graduate School

The University of Northern Colorado, founded in 1889, is Colorado's right-sized doctoral research university, serving a diverse student body around the world. Given its size, program mix, and mission, UNC offers students the access and opportunities of a small college along with the nationally recognized programs, research funding and facilities that come with being a leading U.S. university. Students seeking preparation for a world (and workplace) full of opportunities and options, complexities and cultures, diversity and demands, will find faculty mentors and excited fellow students

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