



# Early Childhood Special Education Teacher Certification

Ages birth through 8 years

## About the Program

This program of study, administered by the University of New Hampshire, Department of Education, prepares early childhood special education teachers in *evidence-based practices* for early intervention, preschool, and primary settings. Scholars will gain knowledge, skills, and experiences implementing current *evidence-based practices* to meet the needs of young children and families through:

- Series of *Evidence-Based Practice seminars*
- Enhanced field experiences in *Communities of Practice* that engage in exemplary practices
- *Mentoring Network* that matches scholars with a community mentor, connecting them with providers in the field to ensure professional success



The program consists of a two year master's degree in Early Childhood Special Needs Option, where courses are taught after 4 p.m., so enrollment is feasible for practicing professionals or traditional students on a full or part-time basis. Graduates are eligible for New Hampshire teacher certification in early childhood special education (Birth - 8 years).

The program is grounded in a social-constructivist philosophy that embraces the diversity of human experience. It emphasizes the full participation of all young children through inclusion in natural environments with smooth transitions between Early Intervention, Preschool, and Kindergarten. Courses are co-taught by individuals with disabilities and/or family members, and University faculty in Education and other departments in collaboration with the Institute on Disability.

## Who Should Apply

The program is designed for individuals who are at various stages of professional education, enrolled in the M.Ed. program in Early Childhood Special Needs Option at the University of New Hampshire, with high priority given to applicants from underrepresented groups, including:

- Students from cultural and racial minorities
- Self-advocates and parents of children with special needs
- Practicing professionals who are interested in learning more about supporting the educational needs of young children with special needs and their families

## Financial Aid

Generous tuition stipends, funded by a grant from the U.S. Department of Education, Office of Special Education Programs, are available for a limited number of highly qualified individuals. These stipends cover the cost of at least 50% tuition per year (the equivalent of at least one year of full tuition).

# Requirements

Scholars enroll in the two year master's degree program full or part-time, including an internship experience. There is the possibility that one or more of the required courses may be waived if past coursework and/or experience documents participants' competence. In all cases, each scholar's program of study must be approved by the program faculty. A sample full-time schedule of courses is depicted below:

| Year   | Fall   | Spring   | Summer  |
|--------|--|--|---|
| Year 1 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Diversity and Child Development</li> <li>Changing Contexts in Early Education</li> <li>Introduction to Young Children with Special Needs</li> </ul> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Sociocultural Perspectives on Teaching and Learning</li> <li>Inclusive Curriculum for Young Children with Special Needs</li> <li>Curriculum for Young Children with Special Needs: Evaluation and Program Design</li> </ul> | Optional summer term enrollment with some courses available |
| Year 2 | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Supporting Families of Individuals with Exceptionalities</li> <li>Elective</li> <li>Internship and Seminar</li> </ul>                               | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Leadership and Advocacy for Early Childhood Education</li> <li>Internship and Seminar</li> </ul>  |   |

## For More Information & Application Process

Applications will be accepted anytime and admissions decisions made promptly. For more information about the program and the application process, contact:

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Department of Education Website: <http://www.unh.edu/education>  
 Graduate School Admission Information: <http://www.gradschool.unh.edu>

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