

ESTABLISHMENT OF A NEW PROGRAM FOR THE MASTER OF ARTS IN TEACHING WITH A MAJOR IN EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION

Recommendation

It is recommended that the Board of Governors establish a new degree program, the Master of Arts in Teaching with a major in Early Childhood Education in the College of Education, effective Fall 2025.

Background

The Birth-Kindergarten program is currently a concentration within the Early and Elementary Education major. Due to grade band certification changes by the Michigan Department of Education (MDE), it is necessary for Early Childhood Education to be identified as its own major and for this major to house the Birth-Kindergarten concentration.

Program Description

The Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) in Early Childhood Education leads to MDE teacher certification in Birth-Kindergarten. Students will gain extensive classroom and clinical experience to develop the content, skills, and dispositions needed to successfully work in early childhood centers and early childhood school classrooms. Candidates who successfully complete all program requirements will earn a master's degree. Candidates must also pass the required Michigan Test(s) for Teacher Certification (MTTC) in order to be recommended for certification.

Admission Requirements

- An undergraduate degree from an accredited institution
- Completion of a transcript evaluation to determine prerequisite coursework
- Completion of content-specific requirements and introductory education courses
- 2.75 Undergraduate GPA

Curriculum Requirements

The program is offered under Plan C and requires a minimum of 30 graduate-level credit hours, which includes 12 credit hours of MDE-required student teaching experiences.

Graduation Requirements

All coursework must be completed in accordance with the academic procedures of the College of Education and the Graduate School and the regulations governing graduate scholarship and degrees. All courses must be satisfactorily completed in accordance with the WSU Graduate School policies. Students must complete the program with a 3.0 GPA or higher.

Program Administration

The program is supported by a program coordinator, associated faculty, and the Assistant Dean of Teacher Education.

Budget and Resource Requirements

No new budget resources are required.

Submitted by: Laurie M. Lauzon Clabo, Provost and Senior Vice President for Academic Affairs

Accreditation

This program is approved by MDE and is accredited by the Council for the Accreditation of Educator Preparation.

Approvals

The proposal was approved by the faculty of the Teacher Education Division, the Assistant Dean of Teacher Education, the Dean of the College of Education, the Graduate Council, the Dean of the Graduate School, and the Provost.