Teaching Early Childhood Education, M.A.T.

Overview
The Master of Arts in Teaching (M.A.T.) in Early Childhood Education is designed for students seeking a graduate degree and Licensure to teach young children age 0-8 years. The program provides a solid academic course of study as well as diverse, dynamic and enriching learning experiences. The program is aimed at preparing high quality teachers to give young children a strong 21st century foundation for learning and development. Graduates of the program will acquire the knowledge, skills and dispositions necessary for working effectively with young children in learning environments.

Credit hours required: 39

Program of Study
The program is composed of 39 credit hours:
I. Professional Core constituting 18 credit hours (including pre-clinical experiences embedded in courses)
II. Methods courses constituting 9 credit hours in (a) Language Arts, Music and Art, (b) Reading, and (c) Math, Science, and Social Studies
III. Practicum and internship constituting 9 hours
IV. A research project constituting 3 credit hours

ECED 402: Application of Learning Theories to Early Childhood Education..........................3 cr.
ECED 407: Family, Child and Teacher Interaction in Early Childhood Education..........................3 cr.
SPED 404: Survey of the Field of Special Education.3 cr.
ECED 408: Language Acquisition and Intervention Strategies for Teachers of Young Children...............3 cr.
ECED 410: Curriculum Development in Early Childhood Education........................................3 cr.
ECED 405: Early Childhood Assessment..........................3 cr.
LTCY 501: Literacy Instruction in Elementary Grades..........................................................3 cr.
ECED 452: Methods of Teaching Language Arts, Music and Art in Early Childhood Education...........3 cr.
ECED 455: Methods of Teaching Math Science and Social Studies in Early Childhood Education........3 cr.
*BLBC 440: Teaching in Culture and Language Diverse Classrooms...........................................3 cr.
ECED 411: Practicum in Early Childhood......................3 cr.
ECED 412: Research Seminar in Early Childhood Education...................................................3 cr.
ECED 429: Internship in Early Childhood Education. 6 cr.
*This course is being added as required by ISBE. The proposal to add the course is currently going through Governance. This addition will change the total credit hours to 42.

Admissions
Applicants to the MAT in ECED program will provide evidence that they have:
1. A Bachelor’s degree from an accredited college or university
2. A minimum undergraduate GPA of 3.0 (4.0 Scale)
3. Successful completion of the ILTS Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP)
4. Two professional references to attest to the applicant’s scholarship and experiences with children.
Note: Conditional admission to the MAT in ECED may be granted to an applicant whose undergraduate GPA falls slightly below the 3.0 requirement but who is otherwise highly qualified. Consideration will be made on an individual basis after a face-to-face interview with the applicant. GRE: Not required

Attending Northeastern
• Classes are offered during the late afternoon and evening hours to accommodate professionals working full-time
• Students may attend either part-time or full-time
• Current in-state graduate tuition is less than $400 per credit hour (tuition & fees)
• Financial support: Financial aid (loans), merit tuition scholarships, and graduate assistantships are often available to help fund your graduate education.

Contact Us
Give us a call: (773) 442-6001
Email us: graduateadmissions@neiu.edu
Visit us at the Graduate Admissions office:
M-Th: 8:30 a.m.–7 p.m. Fri: 8:30 a.m.–4:30 p.m.
5500 North St. Louis Avenue, Chicago, IL 60625
Room D-101D
Visit our website: www.neiu.edu/graduatestudies

Newsweek magazine has named Northeastern Illinois University the Sixth Best Investment among all universities in the nation and number one in Illinois.