Program Description

The program in Early Childhood Education (ECED) consists of 43 hours in professional courses, which are divided into 5 levels. A minor from an approved list, is also necessary to complete the program in Early Childhood Education at Northeastern Illinois University. Students who complete this program qualify for a Professional Educator License with an endorsement in Early Childhood Education (birth-grade 3).

Contact Information

Northeastern Illinois University Transfer Center: Students who have questions about the program prior to admission may contact the Northeastern Transfer Center at (773) 442-4076 or email TransferSteps@neiu.edu.

Admission Requirements

- Students must have earned a minimum cumulative grade point average of 2.0 or higher for all college or university course work attempted. Students must be in good academic standing at the last college or university attended.
- Required documents are: application for admission, $30 nonrefundable application fee, and official transcripts from all colleges and universities.
- Application materials, including the option to apply online can be found at www.neiu.edu/Transfer.
- Application deadlines are as follows:

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<thead>
<tr>
<th></th>
<th>Fall</th>
<th>Summer I</th>
<th>Summer II</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>International Applicants</td>
<td>July 1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
<td>May 1</td>
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<tr>
<td>Spring</td>
<td>November 1</td>
<td>October 1</td>
<td>April 1</td>
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Transfer Policies

- Students with an AA or AS degree from an Illinois Community College and/or completion of the IAI will have fulfilled Northeastern’s general education requirements.
- A maximum of 64 semester hours may be transferred to Northeastern Illinois University from a community college. In cases where both a community college and university were attended, a maximum of 90 semester hours are accepted, with a maximum of 64 semester hours allowed at the community college level.
- Additional information about transferring and transfer policies are available at www.neiu.edu/Transfer.
Admission Requirements for Northeastern Illinois University’s College of Education

- Passing scores on the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) [www.icts.nesinc.com](http://www.icts.nesinc.com) OR a composite score of 22 or higher on the ACT test, if taken within the last ten years (Note: completion of the Writing section of the ACT is required).
- C or better in English 101.
- C or better in College Level Math.
- A minimum 2.5 GPA.
- A minimum 30 semester hours (this can be transfer coursework or courses taken at Northeastern).
- A background check.

College of Education General Education Courses
The General Education Courses for the College of Education are divided specifically in subjects that are demonstrated to be beneficial for students pursuing degrees in education. These requirements must be met in order to obtain a Professional Educator License in Early Childhood Education through the state.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northeastern Illinois University Requirement</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Morton College Equivalent (if any)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
</table>
| Fine Arts and Music (2 courses)             | 6       | • One ART course at Morton (3 credit hours).  
| 3 hours in Art                             |         | • One MUS course at Morton (3 credit hours).  
| 3 hours in Music                           |         | *Please review the Transfer Course Equivalency Guide for a listing of courses with the Fine Arts designation. |
| Humanities & Literature (3 courses)        | 9       | • One ENG Literature course.  
| 3 hours in Literature                      |         | • Two Humanities courses.  
| 6 hours in Humanities                      |         | *Please review the Transfer Course Equivalency Guide for a listing of courses with the Literature designation.  
|                                             |         | *Please review the Transfer Course Equivalency Guide for a listing of courses with the Humanities designation.  
|                                             |         | • Note: No more than two courses from any department can be used to complete this requirement. |
| Social and Behavioral Sciences (4 courses)  | 12      | • Political Science POL 201 at Morton.  
|                                             |         | • One US History: HIST 105 or 106 at Morton.  
|                                             |         | • One non-US, non-Western History class: HUM 154 or ANT 102 at Morton.  
|                                             |         | • One elective.  
|                                             |         | *Please review the Transfer Course Equivalency Guide for a listing of courses with the Social and Behavioral Sciences designation.  
|                                             |         | • Note: No more than two courses from any department can be used to complete this requirement. |
| Natural Sciences (4 courses)                | 12      | • One course must be a Lab, one course must be Biology and one course must be a Physical Science (Chemistry, Physics, etc).  
|                                             |         | *Please review the Transfer Course Equivalency Guide for a listing of courses with the Natural Sciences designation.  
|                                             |         | • Note: No more than two courses from any department can be used to complete this requirement. |
Approved Minors/Areas of Concentration: (Minimum 18 hours)

All Early Childhood Education students must complete a minor course of study or area of concentration. The minor or area of concentration must consist of at least 9 credit hours at the 300-level. The minor or area of concentration must come from the list of approved areas below:

- African and African American Studies
- Anthropology
- Art (studio)
- Asian Studies
- Biology
- Chemistry
- Earth Science
- Economics
- English
- Foreign Language (one language of study)
- Geography (excluding Environmental Studies)
- History
- Interdisciplinary English Studies
- Inner City Careers
- Latino and Latin American Studies
- Linguistics
- Teaching English as a Second Language
- Mathematics
- MSTQE (Math and Sciences Concepts)
- Music
- Philosophy
- Physics
- Political Science
- Psychology
- Sociology

Early Childhood Education Professional Sequence

It is recommended that General Education courses, specific for the College of Education be taken prior to full admission into the program.

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Northeastern Illinois University Courses</th>
<th>Credits</th>
<th>Morton College Equivalent (if any)</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td>* Level I</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>EDFN 302 Philosophical and Historical Foundations of Early Childhood Education</td>
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<tr>
<td>EDFN 303 Early Childhood Development</td>
<td>6</td>
<td>No Equivalencies at Morton College.</td>
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<tr>
<td>* Level II</td>
<td></td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED 301 Curriculum and Instruction in Early Childhood</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED 328I Clinical Experiences in Early Childhood Education Infant-Toddler</td>
<td>10</td>
<td>No Equivalencies at Morton College.</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED 313 WIP: Language Development and Acquisition</td>
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<tr>
<td>ECED 316 Child, Family, and Community</td>
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*Please visit [www.neiu.edu/Transfer](http://www.neiu.edu/Transfer) and click on the Transfer Course Equivalency Link to view list of courses.*
<table>
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<tr>
<th>Level III</th>
<th>ECED 306</th>
<th>Methods of Teaching Reading in Early Childhood</th>
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<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECED 338</td>
<td>Development Assessment of Young Children</td>
</tr>
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<td>7</td>
<td>No Equivalencies at Morton College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECED 328T</td>
<td>Clinical Experiences in Early Childhood</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
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<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Level IV</th>
<th>ECED 352</th>
<th>Methods of Teaching Language Arts, Music and Art in Early Childhood</th>
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</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECED 355</td>
<td>Methods of Teaching Mathematics, Science and Social Studies in Early Childhood</td>
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<td>8</td>
<td>No Equivalencies at Morton College.</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECED 328M</td>
<td>Clinical Experiences in Early Childhood</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>ECED 328S</td>
<td>Practicum in Early Childhood with Special Education</td>
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</tbody>
</table>

* Electives (select one)

|          | ECED 312 | Teaching Strategies with Multicultural Groups                     |
|          | 3        | No Equivalencies at Morton College.                               |
|          | ECED 325 | Literature for Young Children                                     |

* Level V

|          | ECED 329 | Student Teaching in Early Childhood                              |
|          | 9        | No Equivalency at Morton College.                               |

**ECED Program Graduation Criteria:**

- Completion of all Northeastern and College of Education General Education Requirements.
- Completion of all professional education sequence courses and requirements.
- Maintain cumulative GPA of 2.5.
- Maintain professional sequence GPA of 2.75.
- In order for students to be entitled by Northeastern for a Professional Educator License in Early Childhood Education, they must have received a “B” or better in student teaching and have passed the Test of Academic Proficiency (TAP) and the ILTS Content Area Test. In order for students to be certified by the Illinois State Board of Education, they will need to have passed the appropriate ILTS Assessment of Professional Teaching Test.

* These courses are part of the professional sequence in Early Childhood Education and are only offered at Northeastern. Consult with an assigned Program Advisor.

**Northeastern Illinois University Degree Requirements**

1.) **General Education:** 39 credit hours (see requirements above)

2.) **English 101 or equivalent (grade of “C” or higher):** At Morton, take ENG 101 – Rhetoric I

3.) **Total Credits and Credit Levels:** A minimum of 120 semester hours must be earned by every undergraduate student to be eligible to graduate from Northeastern. Students must complete a minimum of 40 semester hours at the 300 level to meet the Upper Division requirement.

4.) **Major Program:** Undergraduate students must declare and complete a major. Students must earn a grade of “C” or higher in all courses counted toward the major. No “P” grades will count toward a major.
5.) **Residency:** Must complete a minimum of 30 credit hours at Northeastern.

6.) **GPA:** Students must have a minimum cumulative 2.0 GPA (overall “C” average). Some academic programs and departments have other specific grade requirements.

7.) **Improving Human Relations:** The Improving Human Relations requirement may be met through the General Education program. Courses are available in both the Humanities and Social / Behavioral Sciences categories. You may choose a course that meets the Improving Human Relations requirement and Humanities or Social / Behavioral Sciences.

8.) **WIP (Writing Intensive Program):** Students must successfully complete a writing intensive course within their discipline. This course must be completed at Northeastern. Students completing the Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education fulfill this requirement by taking ECED 313 – WIP: Language Development and Acquisition.

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**Tuition, Financial Aid and Scholarships**

Northeastern Illinois University is committed to providing an affordable education. That’s why our tuition and fees are among the most affordable of the Illinois Public Universities. We offer a tuition guarantee program that guarantees incoming students the same tuition rate for four years.

For information about financing your education at Northeastern, including Financial Aid and Scholarship opportunities, please see our website: [http://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/](http://www.neiu.edu/financial-aid/). You may also contact our Financial Aid Office directly at (773) 442-5016 or email Financial-Aid@neiu.edu. If you are completing the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), Northeastern’s federal School code is 001693.

**Provost and Deans Merit Scholarships for TRANSFER students:**

**Provost Merit Scholarship**

Scholarships in the amount of $2,000 will be awarded to new transfers who meet the following criteria and who apply early for admission. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis:

- Admitted entering transfer students with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science (or at least 60 earned credits).
- Must have at least a cumulative transfer GPA of 3.50.
- Must be an Illinois resident.
- Must be enrolled as a full time student at Northeastern.

**Deans Merit Scholarship**

Scholarships in the amount of $1,000 will be awarded to new transfers who meet the following criteria and who apply early for admission. Scholarships will be awarded on a first-come first-serve basis:

- Admitted entering transfer students with an Associate of Arts or Associate of Science (or at least 60 earned credit hours).
- Must have at least a cumulative transfer GPA of 3.00.
- Must be an Illinois resident.
- Must be enrolled as a full time student at Northeastern.

*Until all of the scholarships are awarded, students who meet these qualifications will automatically be considered for the Provost and Deans Merit Scholarships at the time of applying for admission to Northeastern. Completing an additional application is not necessary.* The Office of Scholarships may be reached at (773) 442-4606 or scholarships@neiu.edu.