



Master of Science in Education Early Childhood Education Career Change Program

Redefine your path — become a certified early childhood educator and bring your expertise into the classroom

Mission Statement

The Department of Curriculum and Instruction inspires learners through collaborative, authentic, responsive, and experiential practices. We are committed to supporting our students as global educators, leaders, and researchers who address the needs of communities within and beyond the classroom. This graduate program provides students with the knowledge, skills, and experiences to become competent, caring, and effective early childhood (Birth-Grade 2) teachers prepared to design and enact instruction and assessment that is differentiated and culturally responsive.

Why Choose This Program?

- Designed for career changers who aspire to teach children from birth to grade 2 with confidence and purpose
- Rigorous 33-credit curriculum leading to New York State certification
- Foundations in theory, teaching methods, inclusive pedagogy, assessment, and technology integration
- Immediate and sustained immersion into field-based experiences in schools, including student teaching
- Supportive, purpose-driven community of teaching and learning
- Faculty with expertise who are committed to recognizing and building upon student experiences and assets
- Built-in supports for all aspects of New York State certification, including required state-mandated workshops

Program Snapshot

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| Credits | 33 credits total |
| Core Courses | Foundations, School, Family and Community Partnership, Special Education, Methods in Academic Disciplines, Assessment & Evaluation, Curriculum & Technology |

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| Field Experience | 100+ hours of observation per NY State certification requirements embedded throughout program; 3 credits of student teaching / internship |
| Format / Duration | Typically, 1.5–2 years full-time (part-time options available) |
| Certification | Prepares for NY State initial certification in Early Childhood Education (Birth-Grade 2) |

Admissions & How to Apply

- Fall and Spring admission cycles
- Required documents: transcripts, letters of recommendation, statement of purpose, résumé/CV
- Minimum 3.0 GPA
- Application portal available online <https://grad.stjohns.edu/portal/apply>

Learning Outcomes & Career Paths

- Design and deliver instruction aligned with standards across subject areas
- Differentiate instruction for diverse learners
- Use assessments and data to inform teaching practice
- Integrate technology and research into educational practice

Potential Career Paths:

- Early Childhood school teacher (Birth-Grade 2)
- Content specialist / Instructional coach
- Curriculum developer/coordinator
- Educational consultant

Ready to Take the Next Step?

Apply today or contact us to learn more!

Office of Graduate Admissions, School of Education

Phone: 718-990-2304

Website: <https://grad.stjohns.edu/portal/apply>

Have specific program questions?

Contact Dr. Regina Mistretta, Early Childhood Education Program Coordinator, at mistretr@stjohns.edu