Early Childhood Education

The program in early childhood education consists of an academic major in Early Childhood Education and a sequence of professional certification courses that can lead to teacher licensure Pre K-third grade or a dual endorsement in elementary education and P-3. A non-certification option is also available. Upon completion of the program, candidates can work in childcare centers, preschools, Head Start programs, and, if they receive the P-3 teacher endorsement, in the primary grades in public schools. A student completing the dual endorsement option may teach in any of the elementary grades. The course work offers a combination of theory, methods, and field experiences in a variety of early childhood education settings.

Admission and Retention
Admission to both Western Washington University and Early Childhood Education are required before a student may begin taking courses in the professional sequence. Requirements for consideration of an application include:

- completion of a minimum of 45 credits
- cumulative grade point average of 2.75 or higher for the last 45 credits
- meet the WEST-B basic skills requirement. This may be met by: a) Passing the West-B exam, b) SAT minimum scores, c) ACT minimum scores. See our West-B website for details: [www.west.nesinc.com](http://www.west.nesinc.com). Passing scores must be on file by the application due date
- completion of an English composition course with grade of B- or higher

Enrollment restrictions apply in all teacher education programs. Meeting the above criteria makes the applicant eligible for admission, but does not guarantee admission. Applications from students who meet all the criteria are evaluated to determine those most qualified. All applicants are then rank-ordered, and a final list created based on available openings. For further information, visit Teacher Education Admissions, Miller Hall 150 (360) 650-3313 or visit the web site at [wce.wwu.edu/admission](http://wce.wwu.edu/admission). Retention in the program requires continuous demonstration of competence in standard oral and written English in all course work. Retention also requires maintenance of a 2.75 quarterly GPA for each quarter upon admission to Early Childhood Education. Courses required for a state teaching endorsement and for the professional sequence must be completed with grades of C (2.0) or better.

Student Advisement
Prospective Early Childhood students are invited to meet with an advisor for more information about the program. The office is in Miller Hall 300 and the phone number is (360) 650-3336. Once admitted to the program, students are assigned a faculty advisor with whom they will stay in contact throughout their program.

Prerequisites to the Early Childhood Education Program
In order to complete the Early Childhood Program on the schedule as posted, it is strongly recommended that your GUR requirements (Natural Science and Math, in particular) be met before applying to the program. See [Recommended GURs for ECE Students](http://wce.wwu.edu/admission) handout. Students must have completed or tested out of MATH 112 in addition to having completed 12 credits of natural science GURs (eight of which must include a lab) in order to proceed with science and math classes required in the program. We recommend SCED 201, 202 and 203. The Natural Sciences GUR block (or equivalent), containing SCED 201, is a prerequisite to SCED 480. This is the first science course to be taken and is scheduled in the third quarter of your program.
If you are applying to the Dual Endorsement Program option (rather than the Non-Certification or the P-3 option), be advised that you must take LING 201 or ELL 432 as a prerequisite for the ELED 480 class which is part of your program. LING 201 is on the GUR listing, under Social Sciences.

Options in the Early Childhood Education Programs
There are three options in the early childhood program for students who may have different career goals.

- **Non-Certification**- This option offers students the preparation for working in child care settings, head start programs and with school-age children in after-school programs. Students complete a major in early childhood education, take a preschool internship and complete the degree in two years. Details about this option can be found on the [Non-Certification option Plan of Study sheet](#).

- **Early Childhood Education P-3 Endorsement**- This option offers students preparation for an Early Childhood Education endorsement to work with young children from birth through third grade. Students complete a major in early childhood education; take a one-term preschool internship and a two-term primary internship. This option can be completed in two years and one term. Details about the P-3 option can be found on the [P-3 option Plan of Study sheet](#).

- **Dual Endorsement in Elementary Education and Early Childhood Education**- This option offers students preparation for elementary and P-3 endorsement. Students complete a major in early childhood education, a preschool internship, a year-long internship in a primary grade, take additional coursework in elementary education and are generally able to complete the program in three years. Dual Endorsement option details can be found on the [Dual option Plan of Study sheet](#).