Purpose of Program

This concentration is designed to allow professionals the opportunity to acquire knowledge and skills for effective instruction and care, leadership, and advocacy in early childhood and elementary education in a diverse society. Emphasis is on integrating reflective practices with current research perspectives for practical applications. The focus is also on advancing the research and knowledge base in fields of early childhood and elementary education.

Program Options

The Early Childhood and Elementary Education (ECE) concentration requires 33 (thesis) or 36 (non-thesis) semester hours for completion. In addition to general education courses, students must complete the following:

9 hours of core courses:

- ILT 5003 Principles of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching
- C&I 5003 Theory of Curriculum and Instruction
- EDU 5003 Research Methods in Education

15 hours of ECE core courses:

- ECE 5133 Language and Discourse Development in Preschool-Primary Children
- ECE 5503 Theoretical Foundations of Early Childhood and Elementary Education
- ECE 6423 Advanced Studies in Play
- ECE 6453 Assessment and Evaluation in Early Childhood and Elementary Education
- ECE 6653 Action Research in Childhood Settings (Capstone Course)

12 hours of support courses:

Students will work with their faculty advisors to develop a list of graduate-level electives to support students’ professional and academic goals. These courses may include additional coursework in ECE or other related fields of education such as Literacy Education, Special Education, and Curriculum and Instruction.

Career Opportunities

Students in this concentration will be qualified to work in a variety of early childhood and elementary settings as classroom teachers (with necessary certifications), early childhood and elementary education curriculum specialists, and childcare directors and advocates. They can also serve with non-profit organizations, government agencies and community agencies.
Admission Requirements

► A baccalaureate degree from an accredited university with a minimum grade point average of 3.0 in last 60 hours coursework
► Be in good standing with the last institution attended
► Completion of 18 undergraduate credit hours in education or related field (including 12 upper-division level hours)

** Applicants without adequate undergraduate hours in education may be required to complete background courses as a condition of admission. If assigned, these are required in addition to the minimum number of hours for the degree.

How to Apply

Apply through the UTSA Graduate School

graduateschool.utsa.edu

Send all USPS mail (transcripts, etc.) to:

The University of Texas at San Antonio
Attn: The Graduate School
One UTSA Circle
San Antonio, TX 78249

Send electronic transcripts to:

graduateadmissions@utsa.edu

Financial Aid and Scholarships

To apply, complete the Free Application for Federal Student Assistance (FAFSA)

fafsa.ed.gov

Graduate assistantship positions available within the college (average of 19 hours per week)

Additional graduate student scholarship information:

graduateschool.utsa.edu/funding
utsa.edu/scholarships
education.utsa.edu/current_students/scholarships

Contact Information

College of Education and Human Development

education.utsa.edu
education@utsa.edu
210.458.4370

Graduate School

graduateschool.utsa.edu
graduateadmissions@utsa.edu
210.458.4331

Department of Interdisciplinary Learning and Teaching

education.utsa.edu/interdisciplinary_learning_and_teaching/
210.458.7443

Financial Aid

utsa.edu/financialaid
210.458.8000 (general line)
210.458.7169 (appointments)