Master of Arts in Teaching

The department of curriculum and instruction offers courses leading to the Master of Arts in Teaching (MAT) Early Childhood Unified (ECU). The MAT-ECU is offered for students seeking initial KSDE license in Early Childhood Unified: Birth-3rd grade.

Admission Requirements

For entry into Graduate School, and College of Education, candidates must possess a minimum grade point average of 3.00* in the last 60 hours of coursework OR a GPA of 2.75 (to be admitted on an exception). Candidates must pass a basic skills test in reading, mathematics, science, social studies, and writing for College of Education admission. Additionally, candidates must possess a BA or BS in a related field from an accredited university.

1. Complete Graduate School application—use code G 18A as the degree code or program code
2. Send transcripts to graduate school
3. Complete the ECU-Residency application
4. Provide the contact information (name, organization, title, email, & phone number) of three professional references (send to kim.mcdowell@wichita.edu)

*Those who do not meet minimum GPA requirements may still apply and be accepted into the program under probationary status.

Full admission to the MAT-ECU program includes:

1. Complete an interview to verify strong record of accomplishment or volunteer work in the field of early childhood, early childhood special education or related fields.
2. Must demonstrate a commitment to diversity, including ethnic, economic, linguistic and special needs.

It is recommended that all interested candidates contact the graduate coordinator of this program before applying for admission.

The internship portion of this program requires that the resident be working (or volunteering) in a classroom (Birth-3rd grade) at least 20 hours a week for Internships 1-3, and full time for Internship 4. It is the resident’s responsibility to seek employment in a classroom.

Degree Requirements

The graduate level initial licensure program consists of 36 credit hours. The core curriculum consists of 21 hours of child development and pedagogy, 11 hours of research and reflection and four hours of internship with university supervisors provided. Candidates in this program, after completing the employment process with partners, will
begin teaching in the classroom as the assistant or paraprofessional. Each candidate will be provided with both a mentor from the employing school district and a university supervisor for the duration of the program. Each semester candidates complete an internship designed to provide direction and support for the candidate learning the art and science of teaching. Candidates are required to rotate through three levels of placement including (1) Infant/Toddler, (2) Preschool/Pre-Kindergarten and (3) Kindergarten through Third Grade. Throughout the program, candidates are responsible for securing employment that meets program requirements. Coursework, practical application, on-the-job (internships), and a support system through the mentor and university supervisor all serve to ensure candidate success in becoming an effective classroom teacher. The curriculum is designed to equip candidates with the following knowledge and skills:

- Effective classroom management practices and procedures
- Early childhood development and exceptionalities
- Lesson planning
- Adapting instruction to meet the needs of all learners
- Establishing and maintaining the classroom learning environment
- Aligning instruction with standards
- Cooperative learning and teamwork
- Technology applications for instruction and productivity
- Assessment of student learning
- Conducting and understanding educational research
- Effective classroom instructional strategies and practices.

**Required Courses**

**Semester 1**
- CI 603 Foundations of ECU 2 credit hours
- CI 711 Multicultural Education 3 credit hours
- CESP 701 Introduction to Education Research 3 credit hours

**Semester 2**
- CLES 728 Theory of Growth & Development 3 credit hours
- CI 617 Assessments & Methods: Preschool 3 credit hours
- CI 743 Internship 1 1 credit hour

**Semester 3**
- CI 704 Assessment & Methods: K-1 3 credit hours
- CI 849 Practices and Trends: Action Research 2 credit hours
- CI 860 Seminar in Research Problems 2 credit hours
- CI 744 Internship 2 1 credit hour

**Semester 4**
- CI 701 Foundations of Education 2 credit hours
- CI 614 Assessment & methods: Infant, Toddlers 3 credit hours
- CI 862 Professional Research Proposal 1 credit hour
- CI 748 Internship 3 1 credit hour

**Final Semester**
- CI 733 Assessment Methods: GR 2-3 4 credit hours
- CI 863 Professional Research Project 1 credit hour
- CI 749 Internship 4 1 credit hour

**Program Total 36 Credit Hours**

**Faculty**

Kimberly D. McDowell, Associate Professor,
Curriculum & Instruction (2004) and Director, MAT: ECU (2009)
BA: Wichita State University, MA: Wichita State University, PhD: Florida State University

Janice Ewing, Associate Professor,
Curriculum and Instruction (1982).
BME, University of Kansas, 1965; MS, 1973; PhD, 1980.

Jeri A. Carroll, Professor,
Curriculum and Instruction (1982).
BME, University of Kansas, 1965; MS, 1973; PhD, 1980.

**For more information contact:**

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