

# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION P-3 (MASTER OF SCIENCE IN EDUCATION)

## Application Deadlines

Applications for this program are accepted throughout the year in fall, spring, and summer.

## Application Materials Required for the MSE in Early Childhood Education P-3

Applicants for a master's degree education program must submit all of the following documentation to Graduate Admissions to be considered for admission:

Graduate Admissions  
Jacksonville State University  
700 Pelham Road North  
Jacksonville, Alabama, 36265-1602

1. Completed JSU Graduate Application for Admission (<https://gr-recruiter.jsu.edu/Apply/Account/Login/>).
2. Non-refundable \$35.00 application processing fee.
3. Official transcripts from all colleges/universities with degrees posted. To be considered for admission, applicants must hold a degree from a institutionally accredited institution or its foreign equivalent. (Students who have previously attended JSU do not need to request a transcript from the university.)
4. Valid Bachelor's-level professional educator certificate in Early Childhood Education P-3. ALL certificate(s) must be valid throughout the program and at graduation.
5. Background check<sup>1</sup>. Any candidate applying for admission to a state approved teacher education program shall be required to be fingerprinted for a criminal history background check through the Alabama State Department of Education to the Alabama Bureau of Investigation (ABI) and the Federal Bureau of Investigation (FBI). Instructions for completing the background process can be found here (<https://www.jsu.edu/graduate/forms-and-links/student-admissions-forms.html>).
6. International student applicants must see the International Student Applicants (<https://catalog.jsu.edu/graduate/admission/international-student-applicants/>) section of this catalog for other application and enrollment requirements.

<sup>1</sup> If the candidate holds a valid Alabama professional educator certificate and has already completed a background check through that process, another background check will not be required.

## Admission Requirements for the MSE in Early Childhood Education P-3

Applicants are admitted on a selective basis by the faculty members of the program, upon review of the completed application package.

With departmental approval, applicants may be permitted to enroll for one semester of graduate coursework while completing general

application procedure requirements. Applicants must achieve unconditional admission within one semester.

## Minimum Requirements for the MSE in Early Childhood Education P-3

An overall 3.25 GPA is required on all coursework attempted for the master's degree. Transfer credit cannot be used to raise the GPA to the required 3.25.

Students pursuing the Master of Science in Education degree may not count 400-level graduate courses toward the degree. All coursework for the Master of Science in Education must be taken at the 500-level.

Course	Title	Credits
<b>Core Requirements</b>		
EED 509	Advanced Twenty-First Century Teaching and Learning	3
EED 550	Diversity in Today's Classroom	3
EED 554	Integrating STEM and STEAM Into Practice	3
EFD 500	Research in Education	3
RDG 546	Multicultural Literature	3
<b>Teaching Field Requirements</b>		
ECE 513	Individualization of Education for Young Children	3
ECE 530	Practicum for Young Children	3
ECE 540	Intervention in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
ECE 545	Literacy Interventions in the Early Childhood Classroom	3
RDG 538	Teaching Reading in ECE	3
<b>Diversity Requirement</b>		
SPE 500	Survey Course in Special Education <sup>1</sup>	3
or EED 548	Materials and Methods for the Multicultural Classroom	
or RDG 530	Methods and Materials for Reading: Teaching Students with Exceptionalities in the Inclusive Setting	
or SPE 532	Methods and Strategies for Enrichment: Teaching Gifted Students in the Inclusive Classroom	
<b>Total Hours</b>		<b>33</b>

### 33 Graduate Semester Hours Required for this Degree

<sup>1</sup> SPE 500 Survey Course in Special Education (3) is required unless SPE 300 Survey of Exceptional Children and Youth (3) was taken at the undergraduate level. If SPE 300 Survey of Exceptional Children and Youth (3) has already been taken at the undergraduate or graduate level, candidates must select EED 548 Materials and Methods for the Multicultural Classroom (3), RDG 530 Methods and Materials for Reading: Teaching Students with Exceptionalities in the Inclusive Setting (3), or SPE 532 Methods and Strategies for Enrichment: Teaching Gifted Students in the Inclusive Classroom (3).

## Graduation and Comprehensive Exam

No comprehensive exam is required for this degree. All students must apply for graduation (<http://www.jsu.edu/graduate/graduation.html>) by the given deadline of the semester (<http://www.jsu.edu/registrar/academic-calendar/>) in which they plan to graduate. Please see the Graduation and Comprehensive Exam (<https://catalog.jsu.edu/graduate/>)

academic-policies-procedures/graduation-comprehensive-exam/) section of this catalog for more information.

**Completion of this program leads to eligibility for Master's-level professional educator certification in Early Childhood Education P-3.**

**Please Note:** Teacher education programs are approved by the Alabama State Board of Education and are, therefore, subject to periodic revision resulting from changes in State certification requirements. Subsequently, modifications in students' programs may become necessary. Students in all graduate level teacher education programs must schedule their coursework each semester with approval of their faculty advisors.

## Alabama Class A Professional Educator Certification Requirements

Issuance of Alabama professional educator certificates is the legal responsibility of the Alabama State Department of Education. Universities cannot issue a professional certificate. To be eligible to apply for certification, a student must complete an appropriate program of study at a college or university which has been approved by the State Board of Education to offer a program leading to the desired certificate. When a student completes the program of study, the institution recommends to the State Department of Education that the appropriate certificate be issued.

1. Alabama State Department of Education regulations are subject to change; therefore, it is recommended that students apply for certification upon graduation. During their last semester of coursework, students should contact Teacher Education Services, 207 Ramona Wood Hall, for information about this process. The university cannot recommend any student for certification who has not satisfied all state and university requirements for admission to and completion of an approved program. Please see the Alabama Certification Instructions (<http://www.jsu.edu/education/pdf/AL%20INSTRUCTIONS%20Certification.pdf>) on the Teacher Education Services (<http://www.jsu.edu/education/tes/>) website.
2. Students certified in states other than Alabama who wish to apply for master's level certification in Alabama upon completion of the master's degree must apply for Alabama certification on the undergraduate level prior to applying for the master's level certification. Students must be eligible for undergraduate certification in the teaching field(s) in which master's level certification is sought. Earning a master's degree at JSU does not automatically entitle a student to an Alabama certificate without first holding the appropriate undergraduate certificate.
3. Recommendation for certification must be made within 60 months of program completion. Recommendation after 60 months requires completion of a current program.