

M.S. in Preschool Education

The Master's degree in Preschool Education is based on research and teaching as the center of the curriculum, and includes both the pedagogical as well as the developmental aspects of early childhood education. Its purpose is to educate a professional who has the knowledge and the commitment to provide leadership in the field of pre-school education through a career of teaching, educational administration, social work, or research.

The evolutionary development of a young child is a continuous process – a chain of events that results from the interaction between the child, his environment, and the quality of stimuli that is offered. The Master's degree program is based upon the notion that child development is an interactive, multidimensional and synergetic process.

The JMVU Master's degree program in Preschool Education includes significant study on the physical development of the child, based upon genetic qualities, as well as the child's nutritional status and health. The program also includes emphasis on the emotional aspect of child development, from infant-maternal bonding to the development of trust. Early relationships between children and adults, as well as the beginnings of interactive play are key components in the emotional well-being of young children.

The Master's degree program will utilize the most timely and valid research studies to encourage students to embrace innovative approaches to the education and development of young children. Our graduates will demonstrate responsible, creative and innovative solutions for creating environments that nurture the physical, emotional and intellectual growth of young children. In so doing, they will effectively utilize or develop curriculum that is firmly grounded in scientific and technological advances.

Program Objectives

General Objective:

To educate professionals who have knowledge and understanding of young children from birth to 6 years of age, including theoretical and practical knowledge, knowledge of scientific research and important contributions in the field, and an awareness of values beneficial to children.

Specific Objectives:

- To analyze the theoretical basis and principles of human development from birth to 6 years of age.
- To equip the student with a variety of strategies to use to encourage the optimal development of young children and to prevent unhealthy development and diseases.
- To support the identification, design, and implementation of social and educational projects that encourage the development of young children and that involve family, community, and governmental entities

- To develop a comprehensive understanding and utilization of the methods of research and evaluation in this field, including the development of a final thesis.

Academic Requirements and Coursework

The Master's Degree in Preschool Education provides students with in-depth training and opportunities for both basic and applied research in education. Thus, the curriculum requires entering students to participate in cooperative learning experiences and intensive professional development as well as to demonstrate a commitment to the care and education of pre-school children.

The Master's Degree program is a thesis-type program, requiring the completion of a culminating graduation project in the final semester. The program requires the satisfactory completion of 40 semester hours. Generally, full-time students can complete the program in four semesters.

The Master's Degree curriculum has an inter-disciplinary and dynamic focus that is designed to stimulate the student's responsibility, creativity and innovation. Specific learning experiences are provided that will develop the knowledge, skills and values to improve the quality of pre-school education in our community and state.

Admissions Requirements

Students must present the following minimum qualifications:

- Official transcripts indicating conferral of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution with a 3.0 or higher cumulative GPA (Foreign diplomas and transcripts must be translated and evaluated by a member of NACES. GPA calculation must be included in the evaluation).
- Official transcripts from all previously attended postsecondary institutions in the United or abroad. (Foreign transcripts must be translated and evaluated by a member of NACES. GPA calculation must be included in the evaluation).
- Completion of a comprehensive essay on the relationship of this program to their personal and professional goals
- Completed admissions application packet, including a **\$75.00** nonrefundable application fee
- Three letters of recommendation

Graduation Requirements

Semester I (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

- Successful completion of the University orientation program.
- EEC 5615 Foundations and Contemporary Issues in Pre-school Education 3 Credits
- EEC 6405 The Role of Families and Communities in Pre-school Education 3 Credits
- EEC 5505 Infant Development (0-2 years) 3 Credits
- EEC 5972 Master's Research Seminar I 2 Credits

Semester II (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

- EEC 540 Understanding Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Preschoolers 3 credits
- EEC 627 Pre-school Exceptional Education 3 Credits
- EEC 6705 Child Development (3-6 years) 3 Credits
- EEC 595 Master's Research Seminar II 2 Credits

Semester III (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

- EEC 522 Integrated Curriculum Practices in Pre-school Education 3 Credits
- EEC 651 The Creation of Pre-school Educational Environments 3 Credits
- EEC 526 The Role of Play in the Development Of Pre-school Children 3 Credits
- EEC 596 Master's Research Seminar III 2 Credits

Semester IV (requirement of 2 courses for 7 CR)

- EEC 652 The Administration of Pre-school Programs 3 Credits
- EEC 597 Master's Thesis 4 Credits
- Successful completion of the university career services requirements.