

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 JMVFU 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

1. Design high-quality learning environments using their knowledge of typical and atypical child development from 0 to 6 years
2. Evaluate curriculum design and curricular decisions to meet the needs of diverse children and their families.
3. Analyze diverse assessment and evaluation strategies, tools, and procedures to improve outcomes for young children, families, and programs
4. Utilize effective communication and collaboration strategies to positively influence partnerships with community agencies and families with young children
5. Design a research project based on relevant theory and research methodology to promote educational transformation in the field of early childhood education.

This program is offered exclusively in English or in Spanish.

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.

Program Delivery

Students enrolled in the M.S. in Preschool Education will complete at least 51% and up to 99% of the coursework online. At least 1% of the course will be offered on campus.

DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATION INFORMATION

Technological requirements for Distance Education Students:

Students must have ready access to all standards outlined. Additionally, some courses require the ability to download and install software.

It is recommended that students need to have basic technological proficiency. Assignments may include, but are not limited to, word processing, document creation, digital slide presentations, and recording video presentation. Students that don't have the basic technological proficiency can benefit from the university's optional offered trainings in the mentioned areas.

Devices

- A Desktop or laptop device is necessary to complete the coursework.
- Desktop or laptop device must have Windows 8/10 or MacOS 10.10 or above and the capability of producing sound via speakers or headphones.
- Mobile devices may be used for some, but not all, LMS functions. A mobile device cannot replace a desktop/laptop.

Connectivity

- High-speed Internet connection: Cable, DSL, etc.
- Internet Web Browser (Firefox, Internet Edge, Safari, or Google Chrome).
- Personal or university e-mail account.

Recommended creation/processing software

- Word Processor (MS Word, Google Docs, etc.).
- PDF Reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader or Apple Preview).
- Additional software may be required for certain courses.

Students privacy:



Student privacy is very important to the university. Students the university FERPA statement located university website under the consumer disclosures tab in the financial aid section. Students may also review the student records section of the university catalog pages 79-80 for more information on privacy.

Verification of Identity Protection:

During the admissions process students will be asked to provide a copy of their state or government issue ID. After students begin their program they will be required to upload a face picture to their Vargas Portal profile. Student identities will be verified and their privacy protected through the use of a student a unique username and password during the Admissions process. The Admissions and Financial Aid Offices will verify incoming student documentation. Student privacy will be protected through the https secure connection of the Vargas Portal. Students will login online and agree through a student agreement that they are the sole users of the course materials. Students will be ask to submit their assignments on the Vargas Portal.

Additional Distance Education Fees:

There are no platform access fees, online library access fees, fees associated with identity verification and the course textbooks may be purchased by the students on amazon.com and other online retail stores. If students desire the university to purchase the course textbooks for the student, the university will charge the cost of the book plus \$30 to the student account. Through the Vargas Portal students will be able to pay the charges, if they desire the university to buy the books for them.

Graduation Requirements

A total of 40 credit hours must be completed by taking the following courses:

- Successful completion of the University orientation course.

Semester I (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	DELIVERY MODE	COURSE TYPE	TOTAL COURSE CREDIT/CLOCK HOURS	ONLINE CREDIT HOURS	IN PERSON COMPONENT
EEC 5615	Foundations and Contemporary Issues in Preschool Education	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 6405	The Role of Families and Communities in Preschool Education	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 5505	Infant Development (0-2 years)	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 5972	Master's Research Seminar I	ONLINE	Core/Required	2.00	2	0

Semester II (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	DELIVERY MODE	COURSE TYPE	TOTAL COURSE CREDIT/CLOCK HOURS	ONLINE CREDIT HOURS	IN PERSON COMPONENT
EEC 5418	Understanding Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Preschoolers	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 6273	Preschool Exceptional Education	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 6705	Child Development (3-6 years)	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 595	Master's Research Seminar II	ONLINE	Core/Required	2.00	2	0

Semester III (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	DELIVERY MODE	COURSE TYPE	TOTAL COURSE CREDIT/CLOCK HOURS	ONLINE CREDIT HOURS	IN PERSON COMPONENT
EEC 522	Integrated Curriculum Practices in Preschool Education	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 6516	The Creation of Preschool Educational Environments	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0

EEC 5269	The Role of Play in the Development of Preschool Children	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 5912	Master's Research Seminar III	ONLINE	Core/Required	2.00	2	0

Semester IV (requirement of 2 courses for 7 CR)

COURSE NUMBER	COURSE TITLE	DELIVERY MODE	COURSE TYPE	TOTAL COURSE CREDIT/CLOCK HOURS	ONLINE CREDIT HOURS	IN PERSON COMPONENT
EEC 6529	The Administration of Preschool Programs	ONLINE	Core/Required	3.00	3	0
EEC 5971	Master's Thesis	HYBRID	Core/Required	4.00	3.5	0.5
TOTAL				40	39.5	0.5
					Total Distance Education - 98%	

- Successful completion of the university career services requirement