



Leading the Field of Early Childhood Education

St. Ambrose University's Master of Early Childhood Education (MECE) combines high quality graduate teacher education with the practicality of online study. The MECE program at St. Ambrose allows early childhood educators and professionals to deepen their understanding of the field, develop leadership skills, and improve their expertise in research, child development, and special education. A capstone project allows students to integrate and individualize research, knowledge, and theory and apply it to their practice. Students who earn the MECE degree will enrich the lives of the children and families with whom they work.

Three central themes are infused throughout the program:

- > Promoting the well-being of all children through development of strong relationships with families and their communities
- > Developing teaching practice for reflective practitioners and teacher researchers to improve the practice of education for early learners.
- > A commitment to social justice for young children and families.

Program Characteristics The MECE is a two-year cohort program, offered online except for the first summer course. A course sequence of 12 courses totaling 33 semester credits is designed to be completed in two years. Courses are taught by faculty from the School of Education, including Sallee Beneke, PhD, (director), Laurie Jeans, PhD, and Deb Brownson, director of the St. Ambrose University Children's Campus.

Admission Requirements

- > A bachelor's degree in early childhood education or a closely related field.
- > Work as a practitioner in an area of early childhood education including teacher, early interventionist, speech therapist, counselor or social worker.
- > A brief goal statement for participation in the program.
- > Two letters of reference.

Curriculum

The 33-credit course curriculum includes:

ECE 601	History, Philosophy, & Contemporary Issues In Diverse Early Childhood Classrooms (3 credits)
ECE 607	Classroom and School Inquiry in Early Childhood Education (3 credits)
ECE 610	Professional Development and Leadership in Early Childhood Education (2 credits)
ECE 614	The Project Approach (1 credit)
ECE 617	Collaborative and Interdisciplinary Teaming (3 credits)
ECE 621	Dimensions of Cognitive Development & Learning (3 credits)
ECE 623	Dimensions of Language and Literacy Development (3 credits)
ECE 626	Math and Science in the Early Childhood Classroom (3 credits)
ECE 630	Families, Society, and Schools (3 credits)
ECE 641	Teaching Culturally and Linguistically Diverse Learners (3 credits)
ECE 650	Assessment and Technology in ECE (3 credits)
ECE 700:	Capstone Project in Early Childhood Education (3 credits)

Program Highlights

As a result of completing the MECE, graduates will improve the practice of education and be able to:

- > Synthesize a holistic paradigm for the education of early learners.
- > Create usable family/environmental models to undergird and maximize achievement for early learners.
- > Plan and implement curriculum to promote higher order thinking skills and problem solvers for a democratic society.
- > Develop tools for reflective practice/self-analysis and the means to translate findings into actual practice.
- > Engage in empirical and action research within the paradigm of professional practice and the emerging research in early learning.
- > Lead in the dissemination of research through appropriate

venues such as the classroom, the school building, the school district and professional associations.

- > Serve as a conduit for all families to advocate for children and access services.
- > Serve the commitment to social justice by developing the tools needed to provide optimal learning experiences for young children, so they can reach their social and academic potential.

The St. Ambrose University Master of Early Childhood Education is a pathway for ECE teachers and other practitioners to improve the education of our earliest learners.

For Further Information

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Additional information and online application are available at www.sau.edu/mece. Or contact Graduate Admissions Office563/333-6308 gradprog@sau.edu

The material presented here is for informational purposes and does not substitute for the catalog. Consult the official university catalog for complete program requirements.