

## About the Early Childhood Endorsement Graduate Certificate

Creighton's Early Childhood Education program is designed to develop expertise in professionals working with children from ages three through eight (pre-kindergarten through grade three). The program provides a broad spectrum of early childhood education courses, all strongly influenced by the beliefs of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC), and built on the Nebraska Department of Education endorsement standards.

### Highlights:

- Combines theory with observation and participation in clinical, community and school practicum settings
- Recognizes that early childhood development is a process of accommodation between the child, the teacher, and the child's environment
- Focuses on translating content and academic knowledge into practice
- Provides many diverse field experiences, preparing the prospective teacher to understand and implement developmentally appropriate practices in the variety of environments affecting the young child

This program is offered on campus and will begin in August 2016 (Fall Term 1).

## Why complete an endorsement in early childhood education?

Early Childhood Education is one of the most sought after endorsements in education. Millions of dollars are being spent to develop and upgrade the education for pre-school and kindergarten aged students.

Research illustrates that early childhood education positively impacts cognitive and language development, social and emotional development, academic skills (reading, writing, and spelling), staying in school, staying out of trouble, and lifelong earnings (as cited in NEA Policy Brief: Early Childhood Education and School Readiness). These findings are especially illustrative of students of poverty and diversity. Currently, school principals, although not required, are seeking individuals who possess certification for early childhood education in their pre-k, kindergarten, first grade, and second grade teacher placements due to the developmental nature of students at this age.

In addition, Bureau of Labor Statistics data demonstrates that the projected job growth for Preschool and Kindergarten Teachers is growing faster than other education levels.



# EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION ENDORSEMENT

## Certificate Requirements: 18 Credit Hours

EDU 556 Foundations and Best Practices of Early Childhood Education  
EDU 557 Investigating Critical and Contemporary Trends and Issues in Early Childhood Education  
EDU 558 Content and Methods Specific to Early Childhood Education  
EDU 559 Significant Concepts for Early Childhood Education  
EDU 560 Assessment, Observation, Screening and Evaluation in Early Childhood Education  
EDU 561 Becoming an Early Childhood Teaching Professional

Through the six required courses, the program will build the following competencies:

### Promoting Child Development and Learning

Using a child development knowledge base, create environments that are healthy, respectful, supportive, and challenging for each child.

### Building Family and Community Relationships

Create respectful, reciprocal, complex relationships that support and empower families, to successfully impact children's development

### Observing, Documenting, and Assessing to Support Young Children and Families

Use child observation, documentation, and other effective assessment strategies in a responsible way, in partnership with families and other professionals, to positively influence the development of every child.

### Developmentally Effective Approaches

Understand and use positive relationships and supportive interactions, and a wide array of developmentally appropriate approaches, instructional strategies, and tools to connect with children and families and positively influence each child's development and learning.

### Content Knowledge to Build Meaningful Curriculum

Design, implement, and evaluate meaningful, challenging curriculum that promotes comprehensive developmental and learning outcomes for every young child.

### Becoming a Professional

Using ethical guidelines and other professional standards related to early childhood practice, demonstrate knowledgeable, reflective and critical perspectives to make informed decisions that integrate knowledge from a variety of sources.

## Why Creighton?

### Outstanding reputation and value.

Creighton University is nationally respected for the quality and value of its education. For over thirteen consecutive years, Creighton has been ranked #1 in the Midwest region by *U.S. News & World Report*, and is ranked as a "best value," giving students an excellent return on their tuition investment.



### Jesuit, Catholic tradition.

Creighton provides a values-centered education, preparing students to act with purpose and make a meaningful impact in their workplaces and communities. Grounded in its commitment to service, justice and caring for each student as a whole person, Creighton respects all faith traditions.

For more information or to apply online, please visit:

**GRADSCHOOL.CREIGHTON.EDU**

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