The B.A. in early childhood education program at Saint Louis University aims to develop reflective practitioners educated in the liberal tradition and committed to service, inquiry and value-centered teaching. It also seeks to prepare future teachers who have leadership qualities including risk-taking, civic responsibility and ethical character. The early childhood education program is for students who are interested in helping young children expand their minds. Students will learn about the intellectual and emotional development of children eight years old and younger and explore ways to create an environment that allows all children to thrive.

To be accepted into the teacher certification program, students must have: a 2.75 cumulative GPA, a 3.0 GPA in professional education and in their content area, a passing score in MoGEA and completed the MEP. In addition, a student must pass the content area test in the chosen field, complete a program portfolio and complete the MoPTA.

The department has instituted the “block” concept into the teacher education program. The first block addresses issues related to classroom observation, studying learning theory and examining schools as a social system, and human growth and development. Block two examines diversity, learning and teaching styles, and exceptionality. The remaining blocks include methods of teaching various subject matter areas and levels and developing learning activities. The culmination of the program is the professional semester block. During this semester the student will spend the greatest amount of time teaching in a public or private school setting.

In addition to the School of Education core, the following courses are required for all education majors:
+ EDI 2940/3940/4940: Portfolio Development
+ EDI 3001: English Language Learners in the Mainstream Classroom
+ EDI 4210: Instructional Technology
+ EDSP 4310: Education of the Exceptional Individual
+ EDF 3620: Multicultural Issues in the Classroom
+ EDF 4240: Growth, Development and Learning

Additional courses required for students pursuing a B.A. in early childhood education include:
+ EDF 2010: Foundations of Early Childhood
+ EDF 3710: Development of the Young Child
+ EDI 2000: Children’s Literature and Media
+ EDI 3300: Emergent Literacy
+ EDI 3000: Foundations of Literacy and Language Arts
+ EDI 3420: Elementary Math Methods
+ EDI 4440: Early Childhood Assessment
+ EDI 4480/4490: Integrated EC Curriculum I/II
+ EDI 3550: Principles of Early Childhood
+ EDI 4540: EC Field Experience
+ EDF 3620: Multicultural Issues in the Classroom
+ EDI 4720: Families as Educational Partners
+ EDSP 4240: Classroom Organization and Management
+ EDSP 4400: Speech and Language Development
+ EDSP 4470: Teaching Methods for Inclusive Classrooms
+ EDI 3015: Creative Arts and Play
+ EDI 4810: Student Teaching: Early Childhood
+ EDI 4860: Professional Development Seminar

Our faculty members take a genuine interest in students, serve as strong role models of success and acquaint students with the challenges and joys of the profession. We seek an appropriate balance between theory and practice, between action and reflection, and between intellect and affect.
ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS

Freshman: All applications are thoroughly and carefully reviewed. Solid academic performance in college preparatory course work is a primary criterion in reviewing a freshman applicant’s file. College admission test scores (ACT or SAT) are used as an additional indicator of the student’s ability to meet the University’s academic requirements and to qualify the student for certain University scholarship programs. To be considered for admission to any Saint Louis University undergraduate program, the applicant must be approaching graduation from an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the General Education Development (GED) test.

Transfer: Applicants must be a graduate of an accredited high school or have an acceptable score on the GED. An official high school transcript and official test scores are required only of those students who have attempted fewer than 24 transferable semester hours (or 30 quarter hours) of college credit. Those having completed 24 hours or more of college credit need only submit a transcript from previously attended college(s). In reviewing a transfer applicant’s file, the office of admission holistically examines the student’s academic performance in college-level coursework as an indicator of the student’s ability to meet the academic rigors of Saint Louis University.

WHY CHOOSE THIS PROGRAM?

+ Students enter into a tight-knit community of faculty and peers committed to innovative learning, diversity and the intellectual ideas of the Jesuit tradition.
+ Students will be prepared to practice “Cura Personalis” — care for the whole person — and work for social justice in their communities.
+ Students will graduate from our programs prepared to collaborate with families, build classroom communities, have high expectations for all students and advocate for social change.

Benefits of this program also include fieldwork and career opportunities. Practica, classroom observations and student teaching are integrated in the education and public service curriculum experience at Saint Louis University. Throughout the program, students will spend a significant amount of time in local public or private schools. The faculty at Saint Louis University arranges placement in schools. Mutual satisfaction of the student, University and school districts is the goal of such placements.

Most graduates elect to pursue a career in teaching, but many choose to continue their studies in one of our graduate programs before entering the work force.

Career options in early childhood education include:
+ Child care specialist
+ Educational outreach professional
+ Preschool teacher
+ Teacher, kindergarten through third grade
+ Private tutor

SCHOLARSHIPS AND FINANCIAL AID

There are two principal ways to help finance a Saint Louis University education:
+ Scholarships: awarded based on academic achievement, service, leadership and financial need.
+ Financial Aid: provided in the form of grants and loans, some of which require repayment.

For priority consideration for merit-based scholarships, applicants should apply for admission by Dec. 1 and complete a Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) by March 1.

For information on other scholarships and financial aid, visit the student financial services office online at finaid.slu.edu.