

Bachelor of Science in Education

EARLY LEARNING AND DEVELOPMENT

INITIAL TEACHER CERTIFICATION PROGRAM

★ Blended



Mercer University's College of Education offers the **Bachelor of Science in Education (B.S.Ed.)** with a major in **Early Learning and Development** for driven individuals who want to nurture young learners.

Designed for aspiring teachers who wish to teach children from birth to kindergarten, the B.S.Ed. in Early Learning and Development program prepares students to pursue various opportunities in childcare centers, preschool and pre-K programs, kindergarten classrooms, or early childcare agencies. Through the program, students are equipped to promote the success of all young learners by demonstrating proficiency in child development and classroom strategy, preparing meaningful curriculum models that integrate technology to positively influence learning.

The B.S.Ed. in Early Learning and Development provides two options: the **certification track** (Birth-Kindergarten) and the **non-certification track** (Birth-5 years). The certification track leads to initial teacher certification in Georgia and requires successful completion of the GACE Program Admission assessment. The non-certification track does not lead to certification and does not require the GACE Program Admission assessment. All students are required to pass the Georgia Educator Ethics assessment. Both tracks lead to a bachelor's degree.

MERCER
UNIVERSITY

COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Why Mercer's B.S.Ed.?

Mercer's B.S.Ed. programs prepare candidates to become dynamic educators and reflective professionals who support the diverse needs of students. Following an integrated, technologically enhanced curriculum, candidates will experience varied field and life experiences within the culture of diverse school and community populations. The Early Learning and Development curriculum is aligned with the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC) standards.

Delivery Format

The B.S.Ed. in Early Learning and Development program is offered through a blended combination of online and in-person meetings at Mercer's Atlanta, Douglas County, or Henry County location, with daytime field experiences. Courses are structured in eight-week terms, and the majority of each course is offered in an online format with students attending class in person only twice per course. Students can comfortably take two classes per eight-week session while maintaining a work-life balance.

Daytime Field Experience

Students in the B.S.Ed. in Early Learning and Development program must complete a sequentially planned series of field experiences in diverse settings related to child development, pedagogy, and program administration. All field experiences are completed at early learning centers primarily during the day.

Beyond the Classroom

Mercer University is committed to serving the needs of schools and communities. We are proud to partner with peer institutions and school districts to provide support and opportunities for continuous professional development.

PROGRAM OF STUDY

B.S.Ed. in Early Learning and Development

General Education Requirements: 30 hours

Professional and Pedagogical Studies: 45 hours

Child Development Studies: 10 hours

ELAD 210 Characteristics of Typical and Atypical Early Childhood Development

EDUC 257 Psychology and Development of the Learner

ELAD 330 Creative Arts for Young Children

ELAD 485 Child Development Pre-Practicum/Fieldwork (Birth–2 years)

Observation and Assessment Studies: 15 hours

ELAD 487 Observation and Assessment of Young Children and Pre-Practicum/Fieldwork (3–4 years)

ELAD 489 Student Teaching (Pre-K–Kindergarten) –

Certification

OR

ELAD 490 Capstone Teaching (Birth–5 years) –

Non-Certification

Child Care Administration Studies: 9 hours

ELAD 400 Classroom Strategies and Interventions for Young Children

ELAD 403 Building Home, Early Learning, and Community Partnerships in Early Learning and Development Settings

ELAD 488 Program Administration in Diverse Settings and Pre-Practicum/Fieldwork (Birth–5 years)

Electives: 11 hours

Total Degree Requirements: 120 hours

A Top-Ranked Leader in Education

Founded in 1833, Mercer University is one of America's most distinctive universities. *U.S. News & World Report* has ranked Mercer among the leading universities in the nation—including a “Best Value”—and The Princeton Review consistently ranks Mercer in the **Top 15%** of colleges and universities nationwide. The University is accredited by the Southern Association of Colleges and Schools Commission on Colleges (SACSCOC).

Mercer's College of Education is widely known for our highly individualized, student-centered approach to education. Our students develop the knowledge and experience to teach, lead, and transform schools, districts, and communities, and our graduates are frequently recognized for their commitment to excellence. We collaborate with teachers, principals, human resource officials, and other community leaders to ensure that our teacher education and educational leadership programs remain relevant and align with our philosophy that students learn best when engaged in hands-on experiences.



Admission Requirements

Applicants seeking undergraduate admission must have a cumulative grade point average of at least 2.5 (on a 4.0 scale) and must be in good standing at the college or university most recently attended. The program admits students five times per year in January, March, May, August, and October.

REQUIRED APPLICATION MATERIALS INCLUDE:

- Completed application for admission
- \$25 non-refundable application fee (\$50 for international students)
- Official transcripts from all previously attended institutions
- High school or GED transcript (if applicable)
- Bright from the Start background check from the Georgia Department of Early Care and Learning (DECAL)
- For full admission to Teacher Candidacy and program entry, all applicants must pass the Georgia Educator Ethics assessment, and students on the certification track must pass or exempt the GACE Program Admission assessment.

International applicants should consult the University catalog for additional requirements.

CONTACT US

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