The Early Childhood Education degree provides students with the training needed to become a teacher of pre-kindergarten to third grade.

Through the structure and content of the program, students will develop the knowledge, skills, and disposition needed to become effective leaders and advocates for social justice in the field of education.

The nationally-ranked program prepares students to work in a diversity of settings—urban, rural, as well as suburban. Highly qualified faculty and staff work closely with each individual pre-service teacher as he or she progresses through an intense program of study. Upon completion of the program, students will also obtain initial licensure to teach ages 3 through third grade.

The components of this major have been designed to meet state and national standards, licensure requirements, and General Education (GE) requirements at The Ohio State University.

The curriculum provides a variety of subjects relevant to Early Childhood Education students as well as numerous opportunities to experience, learn, and reflect on effective pedagogy. Field experiences are introduced early and culminate in an extended student teaching experience in the senior year.

“As anticipated, I gained the knowledge and experiences necessary to become an effective teacher. What I am most thankful for, however, are the unexpected lifelong friendships and professional relationships which were formed with my peers, professors, mentor teachers, and community members during my time in the cohort!”

Frankie Munday ‘15

“This program provided me with so many valuable field experiences and classes from enthusiastic and educated professors who truly care about education. I had districts interviewing me before I even graduated!”

Jillian Shuler ‘15
Employment Outlook

In May 2012, the median annual wage for kindergarten teachers was $50,120 and for elementary school teachers was $53,400. Employment of kindergarten and elementary school teachers is projected to grow 12 percent from 2012 to 2022, about as fast as the average for all occupations. Growth is expected due to projected increases in enrollment as well as declines in student–teacher ratios.

Admissions requirements

Students who come to Ohio State to study early childhood education will directly enroll into the College of Education and Human Ecology as pre-majors with the potential to apply for the major once a significant amount of the General Education and pre-major courses have been completed. Students must earn a minimum GPA of 2.75 to be considered for the major program. There is a selection process, and students should consult their academic advisor as they near completion of the pre-education requirements to discuss the application process for the major.

Internships and co-curricular opportunities

Ohio State Mansfield offers many opportunities for students to learn and grow outside of the university setting. The experiences in the field begin with classroom observation and progress to the student teaching internship during the senior year where the pre-service teacher facilitates all classroom events for a prescribed number of weeks.

Students may also elect to participate in education-focused study abroad opportunities. Mansfield students have traveled to South Africa and Haiti to learn first-hand how children of other countries are educated. Students have been encouraged to present at both national and international conferences with guidance from an active and globally-involved faculty.

Research opportunities

Ohio State Mansfield students have the opportunity to become research assistants or pursue their own research project at Ohio State Mansfield. Education majors can work with professors on research areas such as students’ perceptions and attitudes toward science and scientists and critical analysis of children’s and young adult literature, especially with a focus on multicultural and immigrant populations. Outstanding projects are recognized at the prestigious Denman Undergraduate Research Forum each spring in Columbus.

For more information:
mansfield.osu.edu/academics/academic-departments/department-of-education/
mansfield.osu.edu/future-students/admissions/
mansfield.osu.edu/academics/career-services/internships.html
mansfield.osu.edu/research/