Graduate Programs
Master of Education Degree in Early Childhood or Elementary Education

Programs of study leading to the degree of Master of Education are offered in early childhood education and elementary education. Orientation, including a portfolio information training session, is provided prior to the beginning of each academic term. Information about graduate programs is available from the USC Upstate Office of Graduate Programs at 864-503-5573 and at www.uscupstate.edu. USC Upstate Master of Education degrees are not designed for the purpose of initial teacher certification. Initial teacher certification is required for admission to the M.Ed. degree program.

The Master of Education degree requires:

1. Successful completion of an approved program of study providing 36 hours of graduate credit, of which at least 50 percent must be earned in courses numbered 700 or above (the remainder may be in courses numbered 500-699).
2. Successful defense of a Graduate Professional Portfolio. The Graduate Professional Portfolio is introduced during the initial orientation to graduate programs for degree candidates. During program courses and continuing professional experience, candidates accumulate artifacts for the portfolio. Candidates select for the portfolio, those artifacts which most clearly document their professional development, prepare a rationale for the inclusion of items in each section of the portfolio, and defend the portfolio before a panel of faculty and peers. Full details for the Graduation Professional Portfolio are included in the USC Upstate Graduate Handbook.

For either degree, a minimum grade point average of 3.0 (B) is required on the total graduate program with a minimum average of B on all 700-800 level courses. An accumulation of grades below B on any 12 hours of graduate work attempted at the university will disqualify a student for a graduate degree. Professional development courses may be considered as part of a degree program if the coursework is consistent with the program. Questions should be directed to the Director of the Office of Graduate Programs.

Every candidate admitted for the degree of Master of Education will have a faculty advisor with whom to plan a program of study to assure professional competence and breadth of knowledge. Students will have the privilege of requesting a particular advisor, subject to consent of the faculty member involved and approval by the director of Graduate Programs. The advisor will be a specialist in the candidate's major area of study.

No academic program of study can be approved until the student has been fully admitted to the graduate program as a qualified degree candidate. Students are cautioned that graduate credit earned prior to full admission to degree candidacy may not be applicable toward the degree requirements. No more than 6 hours of professional development courses may be used in a degree program. A maximum of 6 hours of reduced tuition rate (standard graduate-level contract courses) may be presented on a graduate student's program of study. Each academic unit must approve the inclusion of reduced tuition rate graduate-level course work on the program of study. The program of study should be established immediately after full admission to the program; the program of study is completed with a student's assigned advisor or the director of graduate programs.

The Master of Education degree is offered in a Fast Track arrangement, enabling students to complete the entire degree in 18 consecutive months. Though the rotation of courses will remain constant, graduate candidates may elect to complete their degrees at a slower pace, as long as the degree is completed within six years.

Master of Education in Early Childhood Education

Student Worksheet

I. Core Required Courses (18 credits)

- SECH 608: Parent Involvement in Early Childhood Education
- SERM 700: Introduction to Research in Education
- SEPY 705: Children and Adolescents as Learners
- SECH 740: The Young Child: Applying Theory and Research
- SECH 742: Advanced Study of Early Childhood Curricula and Program Models
- SEFN 744: Philosophy and Education

II. Specialized Early Childhood Requirements (9-12 credits) selected from

- SECH 744: Advanced Study of Language Development and Communication Skills in Early Childhood Education
- SECH 750: Play Theory and Early Learning
- SECH 796: Early Childhood Curricula and Program Models
- SECH 797: Seminar in Early Childhood Education
- SECH 798: Types of Early Childhood Centers
- SEDL 642: Teaching Mathematics to Young Children
- SLCY 722: Developing Literacy from Kindergarten through Second Grade

III. Related Study (3-6 credits)

- SECH 791: Field Experience in Early Childhood Education

IV. Final Seminar (3 credits)

- SECH 792: Seminar in Early Childhood Education

V. Graduate Professional Portfolio

*Refer to the USC Upstate graduate handbook for details.*