GRADUATE

CERTIFICATE

Early Childhood Education:
Curriculum and Leadership
Non-Licensure/Non-Endorsement
Founded in 1905, Concordia University-Portland is an accredited, nonprofit, Christian university committed to sharing our Lutheran values of open discourse, intellectual inquiry, justice, diversity, and inclusion to prepare leaders for the transformation of society.

Concordia University’s College of Education is one of the most respected names in learning today, empowering educators who are resilient, serve with compassion, and impact lives beyond the classroom. We teach our students how to help their students find their voice. Part of an active, connected network of 20,000 College of Education alumni, Concordia-trained professionals continue to change the world, student by student.

**CONCORDIA UNIVERSITY’S GRADUATE CERTIFICATE PROGRAMS**

Designed for those working in the field of education, Concordia’s Graduate Certificate programs provide additional skills to enhance the teaching and learning processes in their classrooms or programs. These certificate programs are developed and taught by an engaging faculty of practitioners with a background in education. Our relevant, regularly updated courses empower educators by providing in-depth expertise in the subject area of each certificate, building theoretical and practical knowledge for continued learning. Classes are offered completely online so you can log in from anywhere, at any time of day. That convenience paired with clearly defined coursework, realistic deadlines, and the ability to immediately apply what you learn in your classroom make our certificate programs ideal for your busy working lifestyle.

If you’re passionate about next-generation learning, Concordia is the university leading the way and shaping the future of education.
GRADUATE CERTIFICATE
Early Childhood Education: Curriculum and Leadership Non-Licensure/Non-Endorsement

The Early Childhood Education (ECE): Curriculum & Leadership certificate is designed for those who are passionate about teaching young children through active, hands-on engagement. Coursework will explore current trends and the latest research in ECE (birth through age 8) while deepening candidates’ knowledge regarding collaboration with/advocacy for families and leadership in early childhood settings.

Thinking about earning a Master of Education? Completion of the ECE certificate program will give you a considerable head start on earning an MEd in Curriculum & Instruction: Early Childhood Education, with a transfer of 12 credits taking you nearly half the way there.

Please note that completing this certificate program does not lead to state certification or licensure. In some cases coursework may apply toward the renewal of a teacher’s license.

AT A GLANCE
18 CREDIT-HOUR PROGRAM
100% ONLINE
COMPLETE IN LESS THAN 8 MONTHS
CONSTANTLY UPDATED CURRICULUM
ACCREDITED BY THE NORTHWEST COMMISSION ON COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES (NWCCU)

PROGRAM OBJECTIVES
Upon program completion, successful candidates will demonstrate the ability to:

- Apply their understanding of child development and learning within the context of families, cultures, languages, and communities in their work with young children.

- Develop respectful, culturally and linguistically responsive relationships with families and communities to engage and collaborate in young children’s learning and development.

- Utilize observations, documentation, and other appropriate assessments in a responsible manner to support positive growth for every child.

- Implement a wide array of developmentally effective, culturally and linguistically relevant teaching practices to promote learning and development.

- Utilize their knowledge of content to develop and implement curriculum that provides meaningful learning experiences to support learning and development.

- Conduct themselves as ethical professionals and lifelong learners who demonstrate reflective practices and serve as informed advocates for children and their families.
# COURSE SEQUENCE

Concordia’s certificate programs allow candidates to focus exclusively on the courses needed for mastery of their chosen certificate topic, deepening their understanding of a specific subject area, teaching discipline, or set of competencies.

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<tr>
<th>Course Code</th>
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<tr>
<td>EDCI 503</td>
<td>Issues and Advocacy in Early Childhood Education</td>
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<td>3 credits</td>
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<td>EDCI 504</td>
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COURSE DESCRIPTIONS

Concordia University–Portland’s Early Childhood Education: Curriculum and Leadership certificate program is an 18 credit-hour non-licensure/non-endorsement program.

EDCI 503
Issues and Advocacy in Early Childhood Education
3 credits

This course provides an overview of the field of early childhood education by exploring its past, present, and future. Significant issues focusing on advocacy for children and families will be addressed in terms of the interpretation of research, philosophical approaches, and application of theory. Students will become familiar with advocacy for children and families at the local, state, and national levels.

EDCI 504
Early Childhood Education: A Constructivist Approach
3 credits

This course focuses on curriculum development in pre-kindergarten and the primary grades from a constructivist perspective. Emphasis is placed on facilitating child-centered learning and implementing authentic assessment practices within State prescribed standards and benchmarks. This course is specifically designed for classroom teachers willing to explore the opportunities of project-based learning.

EDCI 505
Play in Early Childhood Education
3 credits

This course focuses on the relationship between play and learning for young children (birth through age eight). It is based on the philosophy that children construct knowledge while actively engaged in the process of understanding the world around them. Strategies for implementing play opportunities in the pre-school and primary curriculum will be accentuated in order that the student may create a classroom environment that supports playful learning.
This course introduces candidates to leadership in early childhood education. Emphasis is placed on grace-filled, visionary leadership, creating a positive learning environment, continuous quality program improvement, and mentoring and empowering staff.

EDCI 612
Collaborating with Families
3 credits

The focus of this course is on establishing respectful and reciprocal relationships between families and early childhood programs. With an emphasis on honoring diversity, candidates will develop strategies for collaborating with families in order to support the child’s learning and development.

EDCI 589
Emergent Literacy
3 credits

This course examines the development of literacy skills in young children, ages 0-8. Topics include the reading-writing connection, use of trade books and thematic literature, and current research in the field of literacy development.

EDCI 611
Leading Early Childhood Education Programs
3 credits

LET’S CHAT

CALL: 1-888-986-8148
APPLY ONLINE: education.cu-portland.edu/apply
QUESTIONS: education.cu-portland.edu
EMAIL: admissions@education.cu-portland.edu
I use the techniques I learned from my Early Childhood Education concentration to better assist my students with behavior, social and emotional needs.

- KAYVONNA STIGALL ‘15, MEd in C&I: EARLY CHILDHOOD EDUCATION
U.S. Citizens or Permanent Residents

Completed online application:
education.cu-portland.edu/apply

Applicants must have earned a bachelor’s degree or higher from a regionally accredited institution

Official transcripts from a regionally accredited college/university with posted bachelor’s or master’s degree. For your convenience, please sign the transcript release form if you would like Concordia University-Portland to request official transcripts on your behalf.

Work History Form

Applicants must have a cumulative undergraduate GPA of 2.8 or higher*

Statements of Intent that respond to the following three prompts individually:

1) Briefly introduce yourself to the Graduate Admissions Office and College of Education teams by discussing your professional background and your interest in pursuing your desired program of study at Concordia. (~75–100 words)

2) Describe your professional goals and their alignment with your chosen program and to Concordia’s overall mission. Illustrate how your strengths and experiences have prepared you for success in the program. (~200-250 words)

3) Discuss an immediate, real-world challenge affecting PK-12 educational settings. Provide an example. What action should educators take to address this challenge? (~200-250 words)

*Standard admission may be granted to students who meet all the admission requirements of the specific program to which they are applying. Conditional admission may be granted to students who do not meet specific admission requirements; however, additional material and documentation will be requested. GPA and other criteria vary by program; please review the specific requirements listed and contact an Enrollment Specialist if you have additional questions or need more information.
International students enrolled in an online program will not be issued an I-20 from Concordia University-Portland and will not be eligible to receive an F-1 student visa to study in the United States.

INTERNATIONAL STUDENTS

International students (anyone who is not a U.S. citizen or permanent resident) will need to fulfill the following requirements to be considered for admission into any of our online programs.

The same requirements as U.S. citizens/permanent residents, plus the following additions:

- Proof of a bachelor’s or master’s degree that is recognized by the Ministry of Education from that country
- Statement of Financial Guarantee
- Your university or college transcripts will need to be evaluated by an approved transcript evaluation partner
- For applicants educated in a university or college where English is not the medium of instruction or where English is not the native language, official score results for the TOEFL or IELTS must be submitted. Any English test score older than two years will not be accepted. Score requirements vary by institution and program:
  - TOEFL: Internet-based score - 80; paper-based score - 550; IELTS: 6.5