

# East Tennessee State University

Over 2000 students are enrolled in the ETSU School of Graduate Studies. Certificates and degrees are offered in 46 areas, including 16 different master's degrees (MAcc, MA, MFA, MBA, MCM, MEd, MAT, MSAH, MSEH, MALS, MS, MSN, MPA, MPH, MPS, MSW), the specialist degree (EdS), and nine doctoral degrees in educational leadership (EdD), early childhood education (PhD), biomedical sciences (PhD), clinical psychology (PhD), environmental health (PhD), public health (DrPH), nursing (PhD), audiology (AuD) and physical therapy (DPT). ETSU is honored to be the site of several Centers for Excellence and our graduate faculty members have a diverse background in research as well as practical expertise. ETSU also offers other advanced degree opportunities with the MD degree and residency programs at James H. Quillen College of Medicine and the PharmD degree at Bill Gatton College of Pharmacy.

**Mission Statement:** The mission of the School of Graduate Studies is to foster post-baccalaureate programs of scholarship that are recognized for their excellence and contributions to society.

ETSU has been recognized by the Kaplan/Newsweek College Catalog 2002 as a top university in the category "Schools that offer the best value for your tuition dollar."

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# Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education



*The Ph.D. program in Early Childhood Education is housed in the Department of Human Development and Learning, in collaboration with the Center of Excellence in Early Childhood Learning and Development, in the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education.*

# Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education



The Ph.D. program in Early Childhood Education will develop scholars and leaders in the field of early childhood. The program is guided by the conceptual framework of the Claudius G. Clemmer College of Education at East Tennessee State University and the principles of the National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

We believe in the vision of NAEYC for educating early childhood leaders. Our candidates will demonstrate the knowledge and skills of the NAEYC Core Standards for Professional Preparation.

Upon completing the program, the doctoral candidates are expected to demonstrate:

- Knowledge and response to culture, language, and ethnicity;
- Teaching knowledge to become early childhood leaders/professionals;
- Knowledge and application of NAEYC ethical principles;
- Ability to access and integrate a wide range of professional resources leading to mastery of relevant theory and research;
- Inquiry skills in conducting research;
- Flexible, diverse skills to work collaboratively and effectively with others;
- A mastery level of oral, written, and technological communication skills;
- Comprehensive skills as an advocate for children and their families;

## Curriculum

The Ph.D. requires 69-72 semester hours distributed as follows:

<b>Component</b>	<b>Hours</b>
Major Field Core	12
Concentration	15
Collateral	9
Research	30
Apprenticeship	3-6



The residency requirement, which provides the doctoral students with significant time for sustained participation with peers and faculty members, will be met through the completion of two or three apprenticeships.

Graduates of the Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education will be competent, have an in-depth understanding of Early Childhood, and have the ability to conduct independent, original scholarship that makes a scientific contribution to the field.

## Admission Requirements

Applicants for the Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education are evaluated once each year for admission in the fall semester. All application information must be received by March 15th for a student to be considered for admission. The program has a number of fellowships to support full-time doctoral students and these are awarded on a competitive basis. Admission to the program has the same requirements as existing graduate school requirements plus additional specific requirements:

- Application form.
- Application fee (\$25 USA or \$35 International).
- One official transcript from each institution attended (undergraduate and graduate).
- Personal resume.

- Personal essay including a written statement of career and educational goals, professional experience, and area of interest for a dissertation.
- Official Graduate Record Examination (GRE) scores taken within the past 5 years. Preferred scores are 50<sup>th</sup> percentile or higher.
- Four letters of recommendation.
- Master's Degree in Early Childhood or a related field from a regionally accredited university.
- An interview by the admissions committee.
- Certification of English proficiency for International students. A minimum official Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL) score of 550 (paper), 213 (computer based), or 79 (internet based), taken within the past two years; a score of 6.5 on the International English Language Testing System (IELTS); or have received a degree from an accredited US institution.

## Graduation Requirements

Completion of the Ph.D. in Early Childhood Education requires all of the following:

- Minimum of 69–72 semester credit hours of course work beyond the master's degree.
- Minimum cumulative grade point average (GPA) of 3.0 on a 4.0 scale.
- Completion of a research apprenticeship and at least one additional apprenticeship.
- Passing the doctoral comprehensive candidacy written and oral examinations.
- Passing the dissertation prospectus defense.
- Completion of a dissertation of publishable quality.
- Passing the final dissertation defense.