



M.S. in Preschool Education

The Master's degree in Preschool Education is based on research and teaching as the center of the curriculum, and includes both the pedagogical as well as the developmental aspects of early childhood education. Its purpose is to educate a professional who has the knowledge and the commitment to provide leadership in the field of pre-school education through a career of teaching, educational administration, social work, or research.

The evolutionary development of a young child is a continuous process – a chain of events that results from the interaction between the child, his environment, and the quality of stimuli that is offered. The Master's degree program is based upon the notion that child development is an interactive, multidimensional and synergetic process.

The JMVU Master's degree program in Preschool Education includes significant study on the physical development of the child, based upon genetic qualities, as well as the child's nutritional status and health. The program also includes emphasis on the emotional aspect of child development, from infant-maternal bonding to the development of trust. Early relationships between children and adults, as well as the beginnings of interactive play are key components in the emotional well-being of young children.

The Master's degree program will utilize the most timely and valid research studies to encourage students to embrace innovative approaches to the education and development of young children. Our graduates will demonstrate responsible, creative and innovative solutions for creating environments that nurture the physical, emotional and intellectual growth of young children. In so doing, they will effectively utilize or develop curriculum that is firmly grounded in scientific and technological advances.

Program Objectives

- Design high-quality learning environments using their knowledge of typical and atypical child development from 0 to 6 years
- Evaluate curriculum design and curricular decisions to meet the needs of diverse children and their families.
- Analyze diverse assessment and evaluation strategies, tools, and procedures to improve outcomes for young children, families, and programs
- Utilize effective communication and collaboration strategies to positively influence partnerships with community agencies and families with young children
- Design a research project based on relevant theory and research methodology to promote educational transformation in the field of early childhood education.



Academic Requirements and Coursework

The Master's Degree in Preschool Education provides students with in-depth training and opportunities for both basic and applied research in education. Thus, the curriculum requires entering students to participate in cooperative learning experiences and intensive professional development as well as to demonstrate a commitment to the care and education of pre-school children.

The Master's Degree program is a thesis-type program, requiring the completion of a culminating graduation project in the final semester. The program requires the satisfactory completion of 40 semester hours. Generally, full-time students can complete the program in four semesters.

The Master's Degree curriculum has an inter-disciplinary and dynamic focus that is designed to stimulate the student's responsibility, creativity and innovation. Specific learning experiences are provided that will develop the knowledge, skills and values to improve the quality of pre-school education in our community and state.

Admissions Requirements

Students must present the following minimum qualifications:

- Completed online admissions application, including a \$75.00 nonrefundable application fee.

Diploma indicating conferral of a Bachelor's Degree from an accredited institution (Foreign diplomas or transcripts must be translated and evaluated by a member of NACES).

- Personal Statement
- Curriculum Vitae (resume)
- Admissions Interview

Program Delivery

Students enrolled in the M.S. in Preschool Education will be able to take the program on campus, hybrid online (Definitions: **Hybrid Online** means the student can complete up to 99% of the program online and at least 1% on campus. **100% online** the student will never attend classes on campus, but solely online. **On campus** delivery means the student will never take an online class, but all classes will be in person).

DISTANCE LEARNING EDUCATION INFORMATION

Technological requirements for Distance Education Students:



Students must have ready access to all standards outlined. Additionally, some courses require the ability to download and install software. It is recommended that students need to have basic technological proficiency. Assignments may include, but are not limited to, word processing, document creation, digital slide presentations, and recording video presentation. Students that don't have the basic technological proficiency can benefit from the university's optional offered trainings in the mentioned areas.

Devices

- A Desktop or laptop device is necessary to complete the coursework.
- Desktop or laptop device must have Windows 8/10 or MacOS 10.10 or above and the capability of producing sound via speakers or headphones.
- Mobile devices may be used for some, but not all, LMS functions. A mobile device cannot replace a desktop/laptop.

Connectivity

- High-speed Internet connection: Cable, DSL, etc.
- Internet Web Browser (Firefox, Internet Edge, Safari, or Google Chrome).
- Personal or university e-mail account.

Recommended creation/processing software

- Word Processor (MS Word, Google Docs, etc.).
- PDF Reader (Adobe Acrobat Reader or Apple Preview).
- Additional software may be required for certain courses.

Students privacy:

Student privacy is very important to the university. Students the university FERPA statement located university website under the consumer disclosures tab in the financial aid section. Students may also review the student records section of the university catalog pages 79-80 for more information on privacy.

Verification of Identity Protection:

During the admissions process students will be asked to provide a copy of their state or government issue ID. After students begin their program they will be required to upload a face picture to their Vargas Portal profile. Student identities will be verified and their privacy protected through the use of a student a unique username and password during the Admissions process. The Admissions and Financial Aid Offices will verify incoming student documentation. Student privacy will be protected through the https secure connection of the Vargas Portal. Students will login online and agree through a student agreement that they are the sole users of the course materials. Students will be ask to submit their assignments on the Vargas Portal.

Additional Distance Education Fees:

There are no platform access fees, online library access fees, fees associated with identity verification and the course textbooks maybe purchased by the students on amazon.com and other online retail stores. If students desire the university to purchase the course textbooks for the student, the university will charge the cost of the book plus \$30 to the student account. Through the Vargas Portal students will be able to pay the charges, if they desire the university to buy the books for them.



Graduation Requirements

A total of 40 credit hours must be completed by taking the following courses:

- Successful completion of the University orientation course.

Semester I (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

EEC 5615 Foundations and Contemporary Issues in Pre-school Education	3 Credits
EEC 6405 The Role of Families and Communities in Pre-school Education	3 Credits
EEC 5505 Infant Development (0-2 years)	3 Credits
EEC 5972 Master's Research Seminar I	2 Credits

Semester II (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

EEC 5418 Understanding Cultural and Linguistic Diversity in Preschoolers	3 Credits
EEC 6273 Pre-school Exceptional Education	3 Credits
EEC 6705 Child Development (3-6 years)	3 Credits
EEC 595 Master's Research Seminar II	2 Credits

Semester III (requirement of 4 courses for 11 CR)

EEC 522 Integrated Curriculum Practices in Pre-school Education	3 Credits
EEC 6516 The Creation of Pre-school Educational Environments	3 Credits
EEC 5269 The Role of Play in the Development of Pre-school Children	3 Credits
EEC 5912 Master's Research Seminar III	2 Credits

Semester IV (requirement of 2 courses for 7 CR)

EEC 6529 The Administration of Pre-school Programs	3 Credits
EEC 5971 Master's Thesis	4 Credits

- Successful completion of the university career services requirements.