

EDUCATION SPECIALIST: EARLY CHILDHOOD SPECIAL EDUCATION (ECSE) CREDENTIAL

CAREER OPTIONS

With an Early Childhood Special Education (ECSE) Credential, you can find employment as a:

- Early Intervention provider
- Infant/Toddler center ECSE teacher
- Preschool ECSE teacher
- TK ECSE teacher
- Kindergarten ECSE teacher

With a Master of Arts in Special Education Teaching (MASET), you can find employment as a:

- Curriculum Development Specialist
- Education Consultant
- Curriculum Evaluator



HOW TO APPLY

You must apply via [Cal State Apply](#) after reviewing the [Multiple Subject Application Instructions](#).

All applications open **August 1st**.

Scan below for Application Information.



PROGRAM OVERVIEW

DESCRIPTION

The ECSE Teaching Credential authorizes the holder to provide educational services to young children with all types of disabilities in birth to TK and kindergarten. The credential embeds the English Learner Authorization (ELA) and Autism Spectrum Disorder (ASD) Authorization. The ECSE program offers fully online courses complemented by in-person fieldwork.

Upon successful recommendation of Teaching Credential, candidates will have the option to complete an additional sequence of five Master of Arts in Special Education Teaching (MASET) courses. Candidates will critically examine sociocultural and sociopolitical contexts in education, apply these analyses to develop and implement standards-based, inclusive curricula for diverse learners, and complete a Teacher Action Research Project using practice-based methods. A separate application is required to begin the MASET program.

LEARNING OUTCOMES

- Collaborate with families of young children with disabilities, general education teachers, other education specialists, related service providers, and paraprofessionals.
- Use a strengths-based, person- and family-centered approach to planning and decision-making.
- Design and implement developmentally appropriate, inclusive learning environments grounded in positive and supportive relationships.
- Embed individualized instruction and supports into daily routines based on each child's interests, abilities, and needs.
- Coach and support diverse adults (e.g., families, paraprofessionals) to effectively implement interventions and supports.
- Collect, analyze, and apply assessment data on the whole child and family to guide instruction and inform individualized plans (e.g., IFSP/IEP).
- Design and implement instructional interventions incorporating AAC, literacy, positive behavior supports, and access to grade-level curriculum.
- Communicate and teach using culturally and linguistically responsive, anti-racist, and anti-ableist practices while reflecting on personal biases and promoting inclusive systems.

PATHWAY OPTIONS

- Fall admission only – Fully online program
- Summer start + 2 semester options OR 4 semester options
- Opportunities to be a traditional student, resident, or Intern
- For currently credentialed Education Specialists, offer the [ECSE-Added Authorization](#) 1-year program

CONTINUATION WITH MASTERS PATHWAY

- Summer + 2 semesters (part-time) MASET coursework
- Candidate who wishes to pursue the MASET coursework have 7 years after completion of Credential program to return.

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ADMISSION REQUIREMENTS:

- Overall GPA of 2.5 (or 2.75 in last 60 semester / 90 quarter units)
- Prerequisite Courses
- Minimum of 45 hours experience working with diverse learners within the age group/population you want to teach – strongly recommended
- 2 references (on required forms)
 - Academic
 - Experience with children
- Essay
- Certificate of Clearance (background check with fingerprinting)
- Group Interview

PREREQUISITE COURSES

Course (units)	Title
CHAD 30 (3)	Human Development
EDUC 100A/B (3)	Educating Students with Disabilities in Inclusive Settings
EDUC 170 (3)	Bilingual Education: Educating English Learners

CONTACT US

Teaching Credentials Department

Eureka 401

Email: coe-cred@csus.edu

Phone: 916/278-6639

Advising

[Schedule an Advising Appointment](#) online!

Not a Sac State Student? Email us to get an advising appointment booked!

Email: coe@csus.edu

Phone: 916/278-6403

COURSE REQUIREMENTS

CORE CREDENTIAL COURSES (50-68 Units)

COURSE	UNITS	TITLE
EDSP 119	3	Legal and Social Foundations of Inclusive Education
EDSP 200	1	Seminar I: Early Childhood Special Education
EDSP 201	3	Developing Collaborative Partnerships with Families, Professionals, and Communities in ECSE
EDSP 208*	3	Positive Behavioral Supports and Evidence-Based Practices for Children/Youth with Autism, Mental Health and Related Issues
EDSP 209*	3	Developing Augmentative Alternative Communication Systems: Assessment and Intervention
EDSP 210*	3	Assessment and Evaluation in Early Childhood Special Education
EDSP 211	3	Curriculum, Intervention Strategies, and Environments in ECSE I: Infants & Toddlers
EDSP 212*	3	Inclusive Curriculum, Intervention Strategies, and Environments in ECSE II: Preschool
EDSP 213	3	Early Language and Literacy Development, Instruction, and Intervention in ECSE
EDSP 217	3	Foundations of Positive Behavioral Supports: Creating Safe and Engaging Learning Environments
EDSP 218*	3	Advanced Program Planning/Instruction: Students with Extensive Support Needs/Multiple Disabilities
EDSP 238	3	Culminating Seminar for Education Specialist Candidates
EDSP 293	3	Strategies for Inclusive Classrooms

Field Experience Courses – Resident/Student Teacher (summer + 2-semester Pathway)

EDSP 474	3	ECSE Early Fieldwork Experience I
EDSP 476	4	ECSE Student Teaching: Infants & Toddlers
EDSP 477	6	ECSE Student Teaching: Preschool/Kindergarten

Field Experience Courses – Working Student (4- to 5-semester Fall Start Pathway)

EDSP 474	3	ECSE Early Fieldwork Experience I
or EDSP 478	9	ECSE Intern Teaching
EDSP 475	3	ECSE Early Fieldwork Experience II
and/or EDSP 476	4	ECSE Student Teaching: Infants & Toddlers
or EDSP 478	9	ECSE Intern Teaching
EDSP 477	6	ECSE Student Teaching: Preschool/Kindergarten
or EDSP 479	9	ECSE Intern Teaching

COURSES FOR MASET (taken in summer & 2 part-time semesters)

COURSE	UNITS	TITLE
EDSP 281	6	Critical Special Education: Teacher Research and Practice
EDSP 282	3	Classroom Inquiry Methods in Critical Special Education
EDSP 283	3	Critical Analysis and Interpretation of Classroom Inquiry
EDSP 500	3	Classroom Inquiry/Action Research Portfolio- Culminating Experience

* Course can also count towards Master of Arts in Special Education Teaching