Master of Arts
Early Childhood Special Education
About the Field

- 11,800+ children in Colorado receive individualized special education preschool services\(^1\)
- Projected area of high growth both nationally and statewide\(^2\)
- Growth related to:
  - Earlier diagnoses
  - Higher graduation standards
  - Lack of qualified teachers
- High demand areas within Early Childhood Special Education:
  - Inner cities and rural areas
  - Work with students who have multiple disabilities
  - Bilingual teachers

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>United States</th>
<th>Employment 2012</th>
<th>Percent Change</th>
<th>Job Openings (^2)</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Teachers, Preschool</td>
<td>22,300</td>
<td>+16%</td>
<td>7,400</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Colorado</td>
<td>Employment 2010</td>
<td>Percent Change</td>
<td>Job Openings (^2)</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Special Education Teachers, Preschool, Kindergarten, and Elementary School</td>
<td>3,240</td>
<td>+32%</td>
<td>846</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

\(^1\)http://www.cde.state.co.us/early/preschoolspecialed

\(^2\)Job Openings refers to the average annual job openings due to growth and net replacement. Source: CareerOneStop.com (Sponsored by the U. S. Department of Labor, Employment and Training Administration) - Bureau of Labor Statistics, Office of Occupational Statistics and Employment Projections
About the Field

• **2014 Omnibus Appropriations bill** (January 19, 2014)¹
  - Significant increases for early childhood education, including a restoration of cuts to programs for infants and toddlers with disabilities, Head Start and child care.
  - New funding to expand access for infants, toddlers and preschoolers from low- to moderate-income families.

• **Salary levels higher than for general Early Childhood Education**²

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Colorado Average Salary Comparison</th>
<th>Entry level</th>
<th>Average</th>
<th>Experienced</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Special Education</td>
<td>$38,094</td>
<td>$51,723</td>
<td>$58,537</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Childhood Education</td>
<td>$21,663</td>
<td>$31,152</td>
<td>$35,897</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

• **Variety of career opportunities**
  - Early Childhood Special Education Specialist (Itinerant)
  - Early Childhood Special Education Teacher (Classroom Teacher)
  - Child Find Assessment Specialist
  - Child Find Coordinator
  - Early interventionist
  - Early Intervention Service Coordinator
  - Early Childhood Center Director/Administrator
  - Early Childhood Systems Specialist (Local or State EC Policy Specialist)

²Labor Market Statistics, Occupational Employment Statistics and Wages Program
About our Program

• History of our program

• Our goal
  o Prepare highly competent, collaborative, ethical and self-reflective Early Childhood Special Education Specialists.

• Our approach
  o Develop science-practioners
  o Problem solving and collaborative decision-making
  o Specialized in optimizing emotional, cognitive, academic and behavioral outcomes for children birth to 8
  o Provide support, guidance and resources for families
About our Program

Emphasis on working with community partnerships that

• Value inclusive excellence and demonstrate a commitment to education
• Are data-driven and reflective in their own practice
• Utilize evidence based practices
• Apply a family centered and ecological approach to intervention
• Progress through the program to act as consumer, collaborator, advocate, and interventionist
Program highlights

• Curriculum focuses on serving children with disabilities and special needs from ages birth to 8 and their families.
• Hands-on experience through the Fisher Early Learning Center and other community sites.
• Opportunities to participate in research.
• Smaller class sizes give you personalized attention.
• Meets licensure coursework requirements to teach in Colorado.
• Can be completed in 2 years or longer if working full time.
• Significant scholarships are available.
## About our Program

### Curriculum
54 to 55 quarter credit hours, including 600 hour practicum

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Core Knowledge Base and Foundations</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Diversity in School and Community Settings</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Child Development</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Application and Analysis</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Exceptional Child</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Low Incidence Disabilities and Interventions</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>18</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Professional Skills and Training</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Assessment of Infants &amp; Toddlers</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Assessment</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Early Academic Competencies</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Educational Measurement OR Educational Research &amp; Measurement</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/13</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Legal, Ethical and Professional Foundations</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Legal Issues in Education</td>
<td>2</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Professional and Ethical Issues in ECSE</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>5</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Collaborative Consultation with Families and Schools</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Family School Partnering and Consultation</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Preschool Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Infant &amp; Family Intervention</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Learning Differences in the P-3 Classroom OR School-age Academic Competencies</td>
<td>3/4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>12/13</strong></td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Applied Coursework</th>
<th>Credit Hours</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>EC Practicum (600 hours taken over 3 or more quarters)</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>PRAXIS or PLACE exam</td>
<td>PASS</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Required Credits</strong></td>
<td><strong>6</strong></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Quarter</td>
<td>1&lt;sup&gt;st&lt;/sup&gt; year</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>---------</td>
<td>------------------</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
| Fall    | Professional Issues  
Infant Development  
Diversity in School Settings | Educational Research & Measurement**  
Practicum-2 |
| Winter  | Child Development  
Early Academic Comp.  
Legal Issues | Learning App. & Analysis  
Infant Assessment  
Infant & Family Intervention |
| Spring  | Exceptional Children  
Family-School Partnering  
School-Aged Comp. *  
Practicum-1 | Preschool Assessment  
Preschool Intervention  
Low Incidence  
Practicum-3  
***Practicum Spring Symposium |
| Summer  | Learning Differences in the P-3 Classroom*  
Educational Measurement** | |

*Practicum Spring Symposium
Early Childhood Special Education Specialist (Birth to 8) Initial License or Endorsement Requirements

- Upon completion of coursework, apply through Colorado Department of Education for an Initial Teaching License for ECSE Specialist OR
- Hold a valid Colorado Teacher or Special Services Provider License and apply for the ECSE Specialist Endorsement
- Successfully pass the PRAXIS or PLACE Elementary Exam

Course Format

- Classes held on campus in Katherine A. Ruffatto Hall
- Meet once per week per class for most classes
- Classes offered evenings (begin after 4 pm) and weekends
Private school education at a public school cost

Estimated Total Tuition Cost: $65,000
Scholarship Award: $40,000 Donne and Sue Fisher Endowed Graduate Scholarship & Dean’s Scholarship
Estimated Tuition Cost: $25,000

Additional Funding Sources:
- Teach Grant: http://studentaid.ed.gov/types/grants-scholarships/teach
What will we be considering for the Fisher Scholarships?

- Scholarship
- Leadership
- Community Service
- Character
- Financial need

How will we measure these considerations?

- Essay (2\textsuperscript{nd} essay for additional scholarship opportunities)
- Letters of recommendation
- GRE scores/GPA
- Interview
About Admissions

Applying

• Complete online application ([morgridge.du.edu/apply/](morgridge.du.edu/apply/))
• Official transcripts from all colleges/universities where you earned 1 or more credits
  
  Undergraduate degree in Early Childhood Education, Early Childhood Special Education or a related field required for certification by CDE

• Valid GRE official score report
• 2 letters of recommendation
• Statement of professional goals
• Current resume
• $65 application fee - **Morgridge will pay your $65 application fee!**

Timelines

• We are continuing to accept applications as spaces remain in the program.
• Interview are by invitation only and will be set up via Skype or phone
Get started.
morgridge.du.edu/apply