Early Childhood Education

at Arcadia University

Global Perspectives…Personal Attention…Real-World Integrative Learning Experiences

Coordinator

Cynthia Kennedy Reedy, Ed.D.

Master's Degree and Teacher Certification

Master of Education with a Concentration in Early Childhood Education, N-3
Certification: Instructional, Supervisory

PA Director Credential

Master of Education Degree Requirements (M.Ed.)

(a minimum of 30 credits)

Early Childhood Education Concentration, N–3

1. Foundation Courses (6–9 credits) chosen with the adviser from the following:
   ED 501–510

2. Concentration Courses (15 credits)

ED	617	Cognitive/Social/Emotional Development of Children, 0–8 years
ED	618	Instructional Strategies in Early Childhood Education
ED	619	Physical, Motor and Perceptual Development of Children, 0–8 years
ED	620	Planning of Early Childhood Programs
ED	621	Communication Strategies for Effective Early Childhood Programs

3. Electives (9–12 credits) to be chosen with adviser. Students are strongly encouraged to take electives within one of the following areas:

ED	526A	Learning and Assessment in Elementary Mathematics
ED	552	Issues and Methods in Elementary School Science
ED	554	Contemporary Science for Elementary Teachers
ED	565	Introduction to Instructional Technology
ED	601	Developmental Literacy
ED	604	English Language Arts
ED	608	Literature for Children and Youth
ED	609	Literacy Acquisition Administration
ED	630	Leadership
ED	634	Managing Organizations and Change
ED	633	School Law
ED	580	Introduction to Inclusive Education

4. Culminating Activity – Arranged in consultation with the adviser at the time of completing the Degree Candidacy Application.

Certification in Early Childhood Education N-3

Certification Option 1: For candidates who already hold a valid Elementary Education certificate and are adding on Early Childhood Education

Candidates will be required to complete the following coursework:

ED	617	Cognitive/Social/Emotional Development of Children, 0-8
ED	618	Instructional Strategies in Early Childhood Education
ED	619	Physical, Motor and Perceptual Development of Children, 0-8
ED	620	Planning of Early Childhood Programs
ED	621	Communication Strategies for Effective Early Childhood Programs
ED	583B	Fieldwork (for students holding a valid Pennsylvania Instructional I or II certificate) (3 credits; credits not applicable to master's degree)

Certification Option 2: For candidates who are not Elementary Education certified and

wish to seek certification in Early Childhood Education as their first instructional certificate. This option also will give the candidate an M.Ed. in Early Childhood Education.

Candidates will be required to complete the following coursework:

ED	503	General Foundations of Education
ED	565	Introduction to Instructional Technology
ED	526A	Learning and Assessment in Elementary Mathematics
ED	552	Issues and Methods in Elementary School Science
ED	580	Introduction to Inclusive Education
ED	564	Creative Expression
ED	601	Literacy Foundations
	OR one of the following: ED 604 English Language Arts, OR ED 606 Emergent and Content Literacy, OR ED 608 Literature for Children and Youth	
ED	617	Cognitive/Social/Emotional Development of Children, 0-8
ED	618	Instructional Strategies in Early Childhood Education
ED	619	Physical, Motor and Perceptual Development of Children, 0-8
ED	620	Planning of Early Childhood Programs
ED	621	Communication Strategies for Effective Early Childhood Programs
ED	470	Practicum in Early Childhood Education (Credits not Applicable to the Degree)

Additional Certification Requirements

1. Completion of all subject area coursework required to meet the general and specific certification standards of the Pennsylvania Department of Education. This will be determined by the program Coordinator.

2. A grade of "**B**" or better in the Graduate Student Teaching Practicum

3. Completion of all Praxis examinations is required prior to enrolling in the Student Teaching Practicum.
   Praxis I:
   Passing scores on the Reading, Writing and Mathematics tests are required for admission to the program.
   Praxis II:
   Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge (30511)
   Qualifying Score: 150
   **Early Childhood Education N-3 (10020)
   Qualifying Score: 530

**Required for initial instructional certificate. Candidates completing an approved program and adding either Early Childhood or Elementary Education to an existing Pennsylvania instructional certificate are only required to take Fundamental Subjects: Content Knowledge.

PA Director Credential

This three-course, graduate-level program is a requirement of the Keystone STARS program under the Pennsylvania Early Learning Department. Courses are offered on campus, at King of Prussia and at various childcare locations. The entire course sequence is offered over one year in fall, spring, and summer. Courses do not need to be taken in any specific sequence.

The goal of the PA Director Credential is to provide directors and administrators of early child care sites, centers, preschools, and before and after school care programs with the skills and knowledge to organize, lead, and manage high quality education centers based on state mandates, current trends and research-based practices.

All credits earned in the PA Director Credential program can be applied toward an Early Childhood Education master's degree program and can be an add-on or used as electives in Special Education, Elementary Education, and Reading master's degree programs. In addition, ED630 Leadership can be applied to the Masters in Educational Leadership and Supervision. Individual advising will guide students who wish to pursue further coursework.

Keystone STARS is an initiative to improve, support and recognize the continuous quality improvement efforts of early learning programs in Pennsylvania. This comprehensive professional development system, including career pathways with credentials, is for practitioners in settings including center- and home-based child care, school-age programs, Head Start, early intervention programs, and school-based programs. In order for Early Childhood Programs to reach Keystone STARS Level 3, directors must be credentialed.

Scholarships

Tuition support for college coursework is available through T.E.A.C.H. (Teacher Education and Compensation Helps) Early Childhood® PENNSYLVANIA Scholarship Program, which works with providers, colleges and child care staff to offer scholarship programs and support systems that improve the education and compensation of child care workers.

Coursework

The goal of the PA Director Credential is to provide directors and administrators of early child care sites, centers, preschools, and before- and after-school care programs with the skills and knowledge to organize, lead, and manage high-quality education centers based on state mandates, current trends and research-based practices.

The three required courses in the PA Director Credential program at Arcadia are

- ED 620 Planning of Early Childhood Programs
- ED 621 Communication Strategies for Effective Early Childhood Programs
- ED 630 Instructional Leadership

The entire course sequence is offered over one year, fall, spring, and summer. Courses do not need to be taken in any specific sequence.

All credits earned in the PA Director Credential program can be applied toward an Early Childhood Education master's degree program and can be an add on or used as electives in Special Education, Elementary Education, and Reading master's degree programs. In addition, ED630 Instructional Leadership can be applied to the master's in Educational Leadership and Supervision. Individual advising will guide students who wish to pursue further coursework.

Admissions to the PA Director Credential Program

Students must have a bachelor's degree (B.A. or B.S.) from an approved institution of higher education, with a degree in Early Childhood or an approved related field and meet the requirements. (Admissions for Education programs.)

For more information, contact Dr. Cindy Kennedy Reedy, Assistant Professor and Early Childhood Education Coordinator, at reedy@arcadia.edu or 215-572-2147.

Requirements for the PA Director Credential Program

Credential issued by Pennsylvania Key. (Must meet the requirements of Pennsylvania Key; 9 credits)

- ED 620 Planning of Child Development Programs
- ED 621 Communication Strategies for Effective Early Childhood Programs
- ED 637 Instructional Leadership