



COLLEGE OF EDUCATION

Illinois State University

Early Childhood Education-Online Workforce Program Frequently Asked Questions (FAQ)

Program Structure	Question	Answer
	What is the Early Childhood Education Online Workforce Program?	This online program is designed for professionals working with children birth through five years of age to obtain a bachelor's degree and Professional Educator License (PEL) in Early Childhood (birth-grade 2). Students' cost of attendance may be fully funded as part of the State of Illinois' Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity .
	How long is the program?	The program is designed to be completed in less than two years. Taking summer classes are required to complete the program in a timely fashion.
	Are classes asynchronous or synchronous?	Classes are synchronous, meaning classes run in real time, with students and instructors attending together via Zoom from separate locations. Students are placed in cohorts to have a more positive learning experience with classmates.
	When do classes meet?	Classes meet online, once a week in the evening. However, students must still participate in independent learning through our learning modules throughout the week. <i>The Fall 2023 Cohort will meet on Tuesdays from 5:30 p.m.- 7:00 p.m.</i>
	Will I be considered a full-time or part-time student?	Although classes take place once a week, the 8-week course model grants student full-time status. The fast-paced program allows students intensive learning experiences in a condensed manner to be able to obtain a bachelor's degree and join the early childhood education workforce.
	Will the program continue to be offered in the future?	Yes, we anticipate offering the Early Childhood Online Workforce program based on enrollment.

Program Requirements	What is the eligibility for the program?	Applicants must have: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An Associate of Applied Science (AAS), Associate of Arts or Science (AA/AS) or bachelor's degree and graduated with a minimum of a 2.0 GPA. • Gateways to Opportunity Credential-Level 4 • <i>Optional but preferred:</i> Working full or part-time in a setting that serves children birth-5 years of age.
	I meet all the requirements above, what is my next step?	To start the pre-admission process, submit this form below to have an Illinois State University representative review your transcripts and verify Gateway credentials. Once reviewed, a member of the ISU team will reach out with instructions for the next application steps.
	I do not meet Gateways to Opportunity Credential- Level 4, but I am currently on track to complete it by the program start date. Can I still apply?	Students must have the Gateways to Opportunity Credential-Level 4 at the start of the program. If on track to complete this requirement, students may apply to the program but will need to provide proof of completion before the start of the term.
	When is the deadline to apply and be considered for this program?	The deadline for the Fall 2023 Cohort is July 17, 2023.
	Do I have to live in the Bloomington-Normal area to enroll in this program?	No, this program is offered 100% online and does not require students to live on campus or in the Bloomington-Normal area. Students must live in Illinois.
	How can I become a fully funded student?	Members of the early childhood education workforce may be eligible for the new Early Childhood Access Consortium for Equity (ECACE) Scholarship Program through the Illinois Student Assistance Commission (ISAC) that may cover all costs of attendance. Applicants must be an Illinois resident, a U.S. citizen or federal eligible noncitizen. The first step for consideration is to complete the the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA) . <i>Note: Be sure to add Illinois State University under the Schools Section (FAFSA Code: 001692)</i>

Financial Assistance	I am not eligible to fill out the Free Application for Federal Student Aid (FAFSA), are there any other financial resources?	Undocumented/DACA students in the state of Illinois may be eligible to apply for the RISE: Alternative Application to receive financial aid. https://www.isac.org/Alternative-Application
	I already have a bachelor's degree, what are my funding options?	Students who already hold a bachelor's degree may be eligible to apply for the Gateways to Opportunity scholarship: https://www.ilgateways.com/financial-opportunities/scholarship
	How do I know if I have been approved for the ECACE scholarship?	Applicants will receive a pre-approval letter from ISAC confirming the ECACE Scholarship has been awarded.
Resources	What transitional resources will be available to me?	<p>Prior to the start of classes, students will work closely with the ECE Online Workforce Academic Advisor, to secure courses, financial aid, and materials to prepare for the semester.</p> <p>In addition to individualized support, students will be required to attend an online two-hour orientation prior to the start of the semester to meet professors, classmates, and ISU ECE Online Workforce Staff.</p> <p>Throughout the semester, students will have the opportunity to attend academic and topic related workshops.</p>
	What academic resources will be available to me?	Professors will host online office hours before and after class and academic tutoring will also be available to students.
	Do I have to purchase books and materials?	Students are required to purchase books and materials. Non-ECACE scholarship recipients can request to borrow books from the College of Education library.
	I do not have access to a reliable internet connection, can I still participate?	Students can request to borrow a mobile Wi-Fi device from the College of Education. <i>Limited quantity and subject to availability.</i>
	I do not have access to a reliable laptop, can I still participate?	Students can request to borrow a laptop from the College of Education. <i>Limited quantity and subject to availability.</i>

	Do I have access to university resources?	All ISU students have access to Milner Library and their online resources, tutoring, and other student support services.
	I need specific accommodation in the classroom (ex. more test-time), how do I go about accessing those accommodations?	Students in need of accommodations should contact Student Access and Accommodation Services: https://studentaccess.illinoisstate.edu/ .
Technology	What apps do I need to install on my computer?	Students will need to download Zoom , a free communications platform that allows users to connect via video, audio, phone, and chat. All ISU students receive free access to Microsoft Office Suite (Word, PowerPoint, Excel) and may be accessed via the student portal. Other online learning platforms may be introduced in classes such as Flipgrid .
	Where can I access my student information such as grades, account information, and resources?	My Illinois State (https://my.illinoisstate.edu/) is the central login for Illinois State University's students, faculty, and staff.
	Where do I turn in assignments and access course materials?	Illinois State University uses the Learning Management System (LMS), ReggieNet (Sakai) to deliver course materials, assignments, quizzes, and tests. ISU will be transitioning to the LMS, Canvas in the Fall of 2023. Individual student support will be available to help ease the transition. https://reggienet.illinoisstate.edu/xsl-portal
Other	Do I need to purchase health insurance?	Yes, all students enrolled in 9-credit hours, or more must have health insurance. Students can either opt-out of purchasing ISU's student health insurance but must provide proof of insurance through employer, spouse, Medicare, etc.
	Do I need to provide proof of immunizations?	Yes, all students must provide proof of current immunization history. To learn more about this requirement, click the link below. https://healthservices.illinoisstate.edu/medical-services/immunization-requirements.shtml