



School of Education

Early Childhood Education Program Fact Sheet

Description

Designed specifically for working adults, the Early Childhood Education program prepares students with the knowledge and skills they need for rewarding careers educating young children. The program's curriculum incorporates current research and theory about how young children learn. Kendall's small class size and full-time faculty help create an atmosphere, both online and on campus, where students can interact freely with a network of people who share their passion for excellence in early childhood education.

Degree Tracks

B.A. in Early Childhood Education with Illinois Type 04 Certification Preparation*: for those who wish to work with children from birth through age 8; qualifies students to apply for certification to teach in Pre-K through Grade 3 organizations that require it.

B.A. in Early Childhood Education (non-certification): for anyone who wishes to work with children from birth through age 8 in educational environments that do not require certification.

Post-baccalaureate, Illinois Type 04 Teacher Certification Preparation*: for those who have already earned a B.A. or a B.S. and wish to work with children from birth through age 8 and to teach in school environments requiring Pre-K through Grade 3 certification.

Concentrations

- **Special Education:** Provides a foundation for meeting the needs of young children with special needs. Teacher candidates preparing for certification can complete the Special Education coursework (plus one additional course for post-baccalaureate) and be eligible to apply for an Illinois Special Education Approval on their certificate.
- **Infants and Toddlers:** Meets the Illinois State Board of Education birth to three standards and prepares professionals to work with infants, toddlers and their families.
- **Childhood Nutrition:** Explores the nutritional needs of children through adolescence, the effects nutrition has on child development, and the application of nutritional theory to public health initiatives.
- **English as a Second Language (ESL):** Prepares professionals to work in ESL settings and positions them (with additional coursework) for an ESL or Bilingual† endorsement from the Illinois State Board of Education.

Formats

Students have the option of designing their schedule to include a variety of formats.

- **Online:** Using a computer, students earn their degree from any location, while collaborating with classmates through online discussion boards.
- **On campus:** Students make meaningful connections with instructors and peers in the classroom.
- **Hybrid:** Students attend class on campus approximately three times per course and complete the rest of their coursework online.

Virtual Field Experience™

Supplementing students' hands-on work in the field, Kendall's innovative Virtual Field Experience (VFE™) is a play-by-play technique that uses DVD segments to capture master teachers in diverse early childhood settings. This offers students a deeper understanding of the complexities of teaching.

Clinical Practice

Kendall students have interned in a variety of diverse educational environments, including the Chicago Public School District; Singapore American School; Southern and Northern Illinois Public School District; NAEYC Accredited Agencies; community college child care centers; and many other private, parochial, and public childcare locations.

Accreditation

Kendall College is accredited by The Higher Learning Commission of the North Central Association of Colleges and Schools (NCA) www.ncahlc.org, 1-800-621-7440. The School of Education's Early Childhood program is accredited by the Illinois State Board of Education for its teacher certification preparation program that leads to the Illinois Type 04 Certificate in Early Childhood Education

Faculty

Members of the School of Education faculty are recognized leaders and experts in their fields. Serving as mentors, each is committed to collaborating with adult learners to develop the fundamental knowledge and practical skills needed to excel.

About the Dean

Dr. Paul Busceni serves as Dean of the School of Education at Kendall College. Dr. Busceni has presented at national conferences on leadership issues in education as well as research and academic writing. Dr. Busceni is a former K-12 school administrator in public and private environments and has led curricular improvement initiatives, building-based morale initiatives, and professional development workshops on teaching pedagogy and leadership. He has also established Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) at the middle school level. He is a member of Kappa Delta Pi.

*Illinois certification is reciprocal with many states in the United States. Students who plan to teach outside Illinois should check with their state's Department of Education for requirements and contact their state's board of education or teacher licensing/certification department to learn more about what your state requires in terms of recognizing an out-of-state licenses and certifications.

†Bilingual endorsement candidates must also pass a language proficiency test through the Illinois Certification Testing System.

Meet the Dean

Paul T. Busceni, Ed.D.

Dean, School of Education

Dr. Paul T. Busceni joined Kendall College as Dean of the School of Education in 2007. As both teacher and administrator of K-12 throughout his 16-year career, one of his continued goals has been to inspire teachers and engage learners.

Throughout his tenure, Dr. Busceni has been a consistent leader in mobilizing communities in collaborative education improvement initiatives. He has overseen building-based morale initiatives, professional development workshops on teaching pedagogy, educational leadership and curriculum improvement. As a school administrator (K-12) in northern Lake County, he established a new chapter of the National Junior Honor Society (NJHS) and implemented Positive Behavior Intervention Strategies (PBIS) at the middle school level.

Dr. Busceni is a prominent speaker and has presented on a range of topics from *Effective Leadership in Today's Schools* to *Multicultural Education: Meeting the needs of students in higher education* at conferences across the state, including the Archdiocese of Chicago's Professional Development Convention, the Opening Minds Conference, the Illinois Institute of Art Professional Development Workshop Series and the Illinois Computing Education Annual Conference.

He is a member of Kappa Delta Pi (International Honor Society in Education), Association for the Supervision of Curriculum Development (ASCD), National Association of Secondary School Principals (NASSP) and National Association for the Education of Young Children (NAEYC).

Dr. Busceni graduated from Northern Illinois University in 1991 with a B.S. in Economics. He attended Roosevelt University for graduate school and received an M.A. in 1996 and a doctorate in 2000 in Educational Leadership and Organizational Change. Aside from his educational endeavors, Dr. Busceni is also an aspiring author of fiction.