



# Early Childhood Studies MA

**RYERSON  
UNIVERSITY**

School of Graduate Studies  
[www.ryerson.ca/ece/graduate](http://www.ryerson.ca/ece/graduate)

# Early Childhood Studies

## MA

The School of Graduate Studies offers an innovative program leading to a Master of Arts (MA) in Early Childhood Studies.

This program is unique among graduate programs in North America with a focus on integrating diversity into early childhood studies. Terms such as “diversity” and “inclusion” are used in the broadest sense to include issues of linguistic, cultural and racial identity as well as disability, gender, class, sexuality, age and migration status. This approach is in recognition of a child’s need to develop a positive identity, not only as an individual but also as a member of a group. Through a critical and reflective process, students will develop a deep understanding of the complex issues that affect children and their families.

### **Program Highlights**

This graduate program:

- Includes an emphasis on diversity and inclusion issues unique to early childhood studies.
- Prepares graduates for advanced practice and study in the fields of education, early learning, family and community.
- Enriches the knowledge and skills of practitioners currently employed in the field.
- Provides a networking base within the large group of academic and community professionals in the Greater Toronto Area.
- Promotes research in early childhood studies.
- Offers Course-Based or Major Research Paper options.
- Offers a full- and part-time program.

# Faculty

Interdisciplinary faculty members are dedicated teachers and active researchers. They are involved members of key local and provincial task forces, and partners in joint research projects with other universities.

Faculty have expertise in such areas as:

- research methods
- immigrant families
- child and family policies
- linguistic minority children
- educational equity
- transformative literacy
- school readiness
- early childhood
- professional identities
- health
- sexuality
- holistic and art education
- inclusion and special needs

\* Visit the program's website at [www.ryerson.ca/ece/graduate](http://www.ryerson.ca/ece/graduate) for a complete listing of teaching faculty.



# What Our Graduates Say

“The program’s curriculum and expectations challenged me to critically examine the multitude of influences on the developmental outcomes of children and families. I have been able to extract relevant learning, skills and attitudes which I incorporate daily into my practice as a child life specialist in a hospital. I sincerely value the support provided by faculty and the ongoing access to their knowledge and expertise.”

— Jennifer Butterly, MA, *Early Childhood Studies '09*

“The professors I’ve worked with over the last year have been nothing short of inspiring.”

— Ryan Campbell, MA, *Early Childhood Studies '09*

“The MA program has been instrumental in providing me with a great deal of academic growth. It is wonderful to be one of the graduates of this cutting-edge program.”

— Tricia M. Dumais, MA, *Early Childhood Studies '09*

“I have nothing but great comments about the ECS program and the faculty. The faculty continues to support my endeavours. The program has made me a better professional and stronger individual. My perception of education and the world has shifted to one of equity, inclusion and diversity. I have applied to a PhD program.”

— Nina Lee, MA, *Early Childhood Studies '08*

“The learning environment created by Ryerson’s graduate school and faculty always invited me to be engaged from day one. I appreciated the flexibility to focus on research that related to my own interests. The MA prepared me for my current employment at an Ontario college.”

— George Sowchuck, MA, *Early Childhood Studies '08*

“I wanted to thank you for the opportunity to attend the program. The MA in Early Childhood Studies has changed my life. The program increased my awareness of vulnerable children and this has strengthened my teaching and perspective on life. I am now teaching at the community college level and plan to write many more papers.”

— Christine Zupo, MA, *Early Childhood Studies '09*

## Frequently Asked Questions

### *What can I do with this degree?*

Our graduates are working in education (child/youth and early childhood education) as teachers and administrators, in government (public policy) and in hospitals (health-care givers/support services). Other graduates are continuing their studies in either teachers’ college or PhD programs. Many of our students who want to teach enrol in both a faculty of education and our program since the combination of the two degrees works well.

### *How long will it take me to complete the degree?*

The degree is completed when you have successfully finished the program’s degree requirements and have applied to the university to graduate. The completion time can vary depending on how many courses you take per term.

As a full-time student, the program can be completed in one year taking the maximum course load of four courses each term.

Part-time students are able to complete the program in two years taking the maximum course load of two courses each term.

### *How do I go about finding an advisor or supervisor to help with academic and career choices?*

A faculty advisor is assigned to each student upon admission to the program. Should you choose the Major Research Paper (MRP) option, an MRP supervisor would take over from your faculty advisor. As part of your application, you are asked to identify faculty in the program who you would like to be your advisor. We suggest you visit the program’s website to review the faculty listing.

### *When are applications due?*

*I have missed the first consideration deadline. Does this mean I can’t apply?*

The dates are posted at [www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions](http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions). If you have missed the first consideration date, we still welcome your application. Our Graduate Admissions office continues to accept applications on a rolling basis until all available spaces have been filled.

# Requirements & Curriculum

Full- (12 months) and part-time (24 months) programs are available with a Course-Based option and a Major Research Paper (MRP) option. In the Course-Based option, students complete 10 one-term courses while students in the MRP option complete seven one-term courses and write a three-credit research paper.

## **Degree Requirements**

- Families and Educational Equity (fall)
- Theoretical Frameworks for Childhood Studies (fall)
- Research Methods in Early Childhood Studies (winter)
- Curriculum Design in a Changing Society (winter)
- Major Research Paper (spring for students in the MRP option)

## **Elective Courses\***

- Implications of Educational Change for Learners from Diverse Backgrounds
- Inclusion: Issues in Assessment
- Social Justice in Education
- Special Needs Across Diverse Populations: Issues in Assessment and Pedagogy
- Cross-cultural Development
- Queering Education
- Risk and Resilience Among Children and Families
- Social and Political Contexts for Early Childhood Professionals
- Social Research with Children
- Transformative Literacy: Critical Pedagogy in Action
- Dual Language Learning
- Children and Canadian Policies
- Children, Technology and Play
- Human Services Evaluation
- Children's Rights
- Multicultural Cities and Planning Policies
- Topics in Children's Health
- Re-conceptualizing Early Childhood Education

\* Not all elective courses will be offered in a given academic year. The current list will expand as enrolments increase, the program develops and new faculty or adjunct faculty become involved with the program.

# Admission

Applicants require a four-year honours bachelor's degree with a minimum B average or equivalent in one of the following disciplines:

- early childhood education
- sociology
- child and youth care
- political science
- social work
- child development
- psychology
- disability studies

Applicants from other disciplines will also be considered. Applicants who have not taken a course in research methods or who do not have a background in research are strongly advised to take a qualitative or quantitative research methods course prior to entering the program. Applicants to the full-time program are required to submit two letters of recommendation from academic references. Applicants to the part-time program may substitute one letter from their current employer for one of the academic references.

## English Language Proficiency Requirement

Applicants whose instruction during their undergraduate studies was in a language other than English are required to submit a test of English language proficiency. Applicants may demonstrate facility in English using one of the following methods:

- Test of English as a Foreign Language (TOEFL)
- International English Language Testing System (IELTS)
- Michigan English Language Assessment Battery (MELAB)

## Additional Information

For detailed program information, visit [www.ryerson.ca/ece/graduate](http://www.ryerson.ca/ece/graduate).

## Program Contact Information

Telephone: 416-979-5000, ext. 4953  
Email: [maecs@ryerson.ca](mailto:maecs@ryerson.ca)

## Financial Support

Ryerson University offers financial support in the form of scholarships, awards and assistantships for as many full-time students as possible. As scholarships and awards are offered on a competitive basis, the number awarded in any given year will vary. For more information on available funding, visit [www.ryerson.ca/graduate/funding](http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/funding).

## How to Apply

Application forms and instructions are available at [www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions](http://www.ryerson.ca/graduate/admissions).

Graduate Studies Admissions  
School of Graduate Studies  
Ryerson University  
350 Victoria Street  
Toronto, ON M5B 2K3

Telephone: 416-979-5150  
Fax: 416-979-5153  
Email: [grdadmit@ryerson.ca](mailto:grdadmit@ryerson.ca)