

Interested in how to prepare teachers to work in blended early childhood programs?

We have a newly-funded leadership training program called **Project Blend**, which is designed to prepare doctoral students to become leaders in developing blended teacher preparation programs in early childhood education, early childhood special education, and early intervention.

For more information about **Project Blend**, please contact:

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For information about the admission process, visit
<http://education.illinois.edu/sped/AdmissionsDoctoral.html>

Project Blend graduates will earn a PhD and be qualified to develop and sustain teacher preparation programs that prepare new teachers to meet the needs of children with diverse abilities including children identified with or at-risk for developmentally delays, as well as those diagnosed with a specific disability.

Students will be immersed in rigorous research focused on issues that support the

development and effective delivery of inclusive preschool programs and early intervention services.

Project Blend focuses on four areas of competency:

- (1) *Knowledge of disability law and educational policy for children, birth to 5.*
- (2) *Ability to improve child outcomes through rigorous research and data-based decision making.*
- (3) *Skills to translate research into practice.*
- (4) *Ability to align early childhood curriculum to current state standards for early learning.*

Students will acquire these competencies through coursework, a seminar series, fulfillment of doctoral requirements, and experiential learning that include:

- *Participation in internship related to state and federal policy development and implementation.*
- *Internship on the translation of research into practice.*
- *Co-teaching of required ECE/ECSE/EI pre-service courses.*
- *Supervising pre-service teachers in blended programs.*

Full-time students funded through Project Blend will receive a competitive monthly stipend, tuition waiver, and yearly research and conference travel allowance. Students must be a US citizen to qualify for funding.



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