

FAQs: Advising for Early Childhood (Add-on Licensure: Early Childhood for 3- and 4-Year-Olds)

<i>Question</i>	<i>Answer</i>
Where can I get current program documents including information about internships, etc.?	Information about your program, course schedule, internship, etc., may be found in the online Advising Guide on the following website www.liberty.edu/advisingguide .
How do I find out who my advisor is?	All School of Education candidates share a group of LUO advisors who work together to give you consistent answers about your program. You can contact your LUO advisor by phone or email: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • 1-800-424-9595 --- Ask specifically to speak to an LUO advisor for the School of Education • educ@liberty.edu --- This email address is answered by a member of the advising team for the School of Education.
Is a previous teaching license required for Early Childhood Education for 3- and 4-Year-Olds?	Early Childhood Education for 3- and 4-Year-Olds is an ADD-ON licensure program which requires that you have an initial teaching license in elementary education (may be earned at bachelor’s level or MAT). If you do not have an initial teaching license you should choose: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • MAT program to earn initial licensure in elementary education <i>Special note</i> to candidates who completed a teacher education program at an institution that is not regionally accredited: Completion of Liberty’s M.Ed. will validate your undergraduate degree, which will qualify you for the initial and advanced license.
What are the teaching experience requirements for Early Childhood?	NO teaching experience is required for the ADD-ON endorsement in early childhood for 3- and 4-Year-Olds.
Can I just take the courses required for licensure in early childhood Education without completing the M.Ed-TL?	Completion of a master’s degree is NOT required for the ADD-ON endorsement in early childhood. The following two options are available: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • OPTION 1 [recommended]: Complete the M.Ed. in Teaching and Learning for Early Childhood Education. This provides a twofold benefit to you: (1) you will most likely be paid a higher salary because of the M.Ed. degree, and (2) you will have obtained the license for Early Childhood Education for 3- and 4-Year-Olds. • OPTION 2: The candidate takes only the courses and practicum needed for licensure as an Early Childhood Education: EDUC 501, 653, 670 • Field Experience Summary: http://www.liberty.edu/academics/education/graduate/index.cfm?PID=26326
Is on-campus residence required for M.Ed-TL: Early Childhood?	No residential intensives are required for MED-TL in Early Childhood Education
Is student teaching or internship	EDUC 698 Directed Practicum is required for the MED-TL in Gifted Education. If you are currently teaching the

required for MED-TL? Must I quit my teaching job to do the practicum?	practicum can usually be completed at your employing school.
May I get licensure Early Childhood Education while also earning my Ed.D./Ed.S.?	The candidate may take the courses needed for ADD-ON licensure in Early Childhood Education for 3- and 4-Year-Olds: EDUC 653, EDUC 655, EDUC 670
What licensure test is required for Early Childhood Education?	NO licensure test is required for the ADD-ON endorsement in early childhood for 3- and 4-Year-Olds.
After completing this program, are there any other requirements necessary before I can work in a school system?	Upon completion of the degree requirements, you will submit licensure paperwork, fees, and a copy of your initial <i>elementary education</i> license, as explained during EDUC 698. All licensure paperwork is submitted to: Liberty University, School of Education, Licensure Office, 1971 University Blvd., Lynchburg, VA 24502 E-mail: teacher@liberty.edu
My state requires a “certificate.” How does this compare to the VA add-on “license” in Early Childhood for 3- and 4-Year-Olds?	Liberty’s Early Childhood Education for 3- and 4-Year-Olds program is approved for a VA license, which is reciprocated in other states. VA uses the term “license,” but it is the same credential as a “certificate.”
Will my license be valid in other states?	You have two choices to apply for licensure: <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. You may submit the licensure application for your state (usually available on your state’s Department of Education website). Our Licensure Office will prepare the verification that you have completed a state-approved program. In most states, there are no other requirements for licensure. In some states you will need to take a state-specific test. There may also be a state-specific course to be completed during your first year of employment. 2. You may submit the application for Virginia licensure and then apply for licensure in your state. This is the recommended route if you are not sure where you will be teaching.

What are the exact licensure requirements for my program?

Go to the following website and look under the Early Childhood program requirements on page 25:

http://www.doe.virginia.gov/teaching/licensure/licensure_regs.pdf The main aspects of these requirements are provided below.

(FOR NON-VIRGINIANS: Our licensure programs are approved by the state of Virginia and are reciprocated by other states. Some of our non-Virginia candidates choose to apply directly for their own state's license. After your internship is complete, you may submit your own state's application for licensure to LU's licensure office.

VA REGULATIONS FOR LICENSURE 8VAC20-22-140. Early childhood for three- and four-year-olds (add-on endorsement).

Endorsement requirements. The candidate must have:

A Virginia teaching license with an endorsement in elementary education (such as preK-3 or preK-6);

1. Completed 9 semester hours of graduate-level coursework in early childhood education; and
2. Completed a supervised practicum of at least 45 instructional hours in a preschool setting (three- and four-year olds) in a public school, an accredited nonpublic school, or another program approved by the Virginia Board of Education.
3. One year of successful, full-time teaching experience in an public or accredited nonpublic school may be accepted in lieu of the practicum.
4. The add-on endorsement to an elementary endorsement (that includes preK) is not required to teach preK (three- and four-year olds), but the endorsement recognizes the candidate's additional preparation in early childhood.