

**Policy for handling requests from students with an MA from an institution other than WMU who want to earn the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement via WMU**

**Approved by the TLES Early Childhood Focal Area Faculty  
10-1-2012 (revised: 1/25/2017)**

**Background Information:**

When Office of Admissions and Advising or Teacher Certification receives a request from a student who already has an MA degree from an institution other than WMU who wants to earn the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement via WMU, they send the request on to Dr. Andrea Smith (Professor, Early Childhood).

The State of Michigan mandates that the student has (at least) a 27-credit-hour program to submit to the State to request the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement.

The State of Michigan mandates that the student have minimum of 14 ECE (Early Childhood Education) credits within the 27-credit-hour program used to request the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement.

The TLES Early Childhood Focal Area mandates that a student must have a 15-credit-hour “core” of ECE (Early Childhood Education) courses (or equivalent). This requirement reflects WMU’s contract with the State of Michigan pertaining to earning the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement from the State. The ECE 15-credit-hour core includes the following courses:

ED 6060	3 credits	Early Childhood Education Methods and Materials
ED 6080	3 credits	Seminar in Early Childhood Development
ED 6140	3 credits	Parent Education
ED 6110	3 credits	Early Childhood Assessment
ED 5750	3 credits	Administration of child Development Centers

To earn the ZS (Early Childhood) endorsement from the State of Michigan, a student must have field experience per State requirements. The State requires that the student complete appropriate field-work experiences in at least 2 of the following 3 levels:

Infants/Toddlers  
Preschool  
Kindergarten – 3<sup>rd</sup> grade

If a student does not already have the appropriate and acceptable field-work experiences, such shall be incorporated into the 27-credit-hour program designed for that student for the purpose of earning the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement from the State of Michigan. ED 7120 credits are used to design the appropriate field-work experiences. An acceptable field-work experience (in one of the three levels noted above) normally consists of a placement that is at least 6 weeks (approximately 100 clock hours) in duration.

To earn the ZS (Early Childhood General and Special Education) endorsement from the State of Michigan, a student must take and pass the Early Childhood General and Special Education MTTC exam\*106.

**The ECE (Early Childhood Education) Focal Area faculty agreed upon and require the following with regard to requests from students with an MA from an institution other than WMU who want to earn the ZS (Early Childhood) endorsement via WMU:**

1. Any transfer credits that are accepted into a 27-credit-hour program must come from an accredited institution.
2. If #1 (above) is met, the appropriate ECE faculty shall compare non-WMU ECE (Early Childhood Education) courses to the ECE core courses (above) to determine equivalency.
3. To be consistent with policy requirements for transfer credits accepted into WMU's Master's-level programs, a maximum of 6 ECE (Early Childhood Education) transfer credits shall be accepted to count toward meeting the ECE core requirements. This policy ensures that a majority of the ECE core courses are taken at WMU, enabling the ECE faculty to feel confident that the student has been adequately prepared to earn the ZS endorsement from the State of Michigan. Further, this policy reflects parity with regard to policy regarding transfer credits for students entering any Master's-level program in the Department of Teaching, Learning and Educational Studies.
4. **This endorsement may only be added, upon application to an active Michigan elementary certificate**

Note: Other courses taken outside of WMU (including early childhood courses) *may* be accepted as transfer courses to apply toward the remaining 12 credits (of a 27-credit-hour program) beyond the 15 ECE core credit hours that are required.