
WHAT CAN I DO WITH A MAJOR IN ... EARLY CHILDHOOD MULTICULTURAL EDUCATION

OCCUPATIONAL OVERVIEW:

“Teachers working with children from birth to age eight in classrooms that include children who are developing both typically and atypically. The program draws on content from child development, curriculum and instruction, family studies, language and literacy, special education, nutrition, physical education and health education. The program’s multicultural focus prepares professionals to work with young children and their families from a variety of cultural backgrounds”

(<http://catalog.unm.edu/catalogs/2013-2014/>)

EMPLOYMENT REQUIREMENTS:

[UNM's Early Childhood Multicultural Education program \(2013\)](#) notes that, “graduates of the UNM ECME program become eligible to apply for licensure in Early Childhood Education, Birth to Grade 3, from the New Mexico Public Education Department. 50 states and the District of Columbia require public school teachers to be licensed. In most states a prerequisite for licensure is a bachelor’s degree. Usually licensure is granted by the State Board of Education or a licensure advisory committee. Requirements for regular licenses to teach kindergarten through grade 12 vary by state.”

THE UNIVERSITY OF NEW MEXICO:

The University of New Mexico [Early Childhood Multicultural Education](#) program offers a Bachelor of Science degree. For further graduate work – please see the Master of Elementary Education with an Early Childhood Education concentration through the [Department of Teacher Education](#).

INDUSTRIES & TARGET EMPLOYERS:

A variety of employers specifically recruit UNM students and alumni. Consult UNM’s [Lobo Career Connection](#) for a complete list of employers and current job postings. Speak with a Career Development Facilitator at the [UNM Office of Career Services](#) for help with identifying employers or additional resources for your occupation of choice.

Business:

HR, Corporations, Marketing, Test-taking companies, publishers, sales, customer service organizations, not for profit organization, Training and Development, consultation, etc.

Childcare:

Independently owned businesses, corporate childcare services, military childcare, religious organizations, daycare centers, etc.

Community Services:

Not for profit, YMCA, YWCA, Camp programs, Residential Treatment Facilities, Rehabilitation programs, workforce programs, specialty group programs, adoption agencies, etc.

Continuing/Certificate Programs:

GED programs, Adult Education, Continuing Education programs, Board of Education, community colleges, professional associations, specialty populations (Prison or Correctional systems, Veteran’s Reintegration programs, K-12 after school programs, etc.)

Education (K-12, Colleges, Universities)

Government:

Research, Federal, state or city government, teaching, evaluation

Social Services:

Counseling, residential treatment facilities, youth services, senior services, Welfare and Health Departments, case management

SUGGESTED STRATEGIES

- Consider specializing with a double major, minor, or concentration in another area.
- Gain related professional experience through involvement in internships, student employment, Co-ops, and/or volunteer opportunities.
- Shadow professionals in the field to gain a better understanding of the occupation and to build relationships with professional mentors.
- Build your network and get involved on campus through student organizations and campus events. Find organizations and events at the Student Activities Center website.
- Attend career related campus events such as career fairs, company information sessions, and or career workshops.
- Students who are interested in graduate school should maintain a high undergraduate GPA and develop relationships with faculty and community leaders.
- Speak with mentors and faculty about career opportunities.
- Job leads can be found on your department's website, list-servs, newsletters, and social media sites.

STATE AND NATIONAL WAGES:

Adapted from CareerOneStop (2013)

PRESCHOOL TEACHER, EXCEPT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Location	2012				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
U.S.	\$18,100	\$21,200	\$27,100	\$36,400	\$48,700
New Mexico	\$17,800	\$20,800	\$26,600	\$35,900	\$48,800

*Data obtained from Career One Stop (www.careerinfonet.org)

KINDERGARTEN TEACHER, EXCEPT SPECIAL EDUCATION

Location	2012				
	10%	25%	Median	75%	90%
U.S.	\$32,500	\$40,300	\$50,100	\$63,800	\$78,200
New Mexico	\$28,500	\$38,500	\$44,700	\$54,700	\$65,900

*Data obtained from Career One Stop (www.careerinfonet.org)

PROFESSIONAL ORGANIZATIONS:

National Association for the Education of Young Children
National Education Association
American Federation of Teachers
American School Counselor Association
American Library Association
American Association of School Administrators
National Center of Alternative Certification
UNM College of Education
New Mexico Department of Education

<http://www.naeyc.org/>
<http://www.nea.org/i>
<http://www.aft.org/>
<http://www.schoolcounselor.org/>
<http://www.ala.org/>
<http://www.aasa.org/>
<http://www.teach-now.org/>
<http://coe.unm.edu/>
<http://www.ped.state.nm.us/>