The online Post-Baccalaureate Certificate in Birth through Kindergarten (BK) Initial Licensure provides graduate-level training for students with a bachelor’s degree in early childhood or a related field seeking an initial North Carolina BK teaching license. The certificate program requires 20 semester hours and is offered jointly by the departments of Human Development and Family Studies and Specialized Education Services.

Students enrolled in the program participate in synchronous online courses, in which they interact with their professors and peers in real time, field experiences, and student teaching in inclusive early childhood settings. Experienced and committed faculty teach, advise, and mentor students in this innovative interdisciplinary program.

Grant Funding Opportunity

Funding is available through a grant from the U.S. Department of Education Office of Special Education Programs for qualified students in the BK:ILP who wish to gain specialized experience in early intervention and early childhood special education. Ten spaces are available for the first cohort, beginning Fall 2015.

The grant will provide full tuition support and a stipend to assist in covering program expenses for selected students. With this support, students will:

- Complete the BK:ILP course of study
- Complete an additional one credit hour Seminar in Early Intervention and Early Childhood Special Education
- Participate in expanded field experiences in early intervention and early childhood special education
- Participate in professional and peer mentoring and induction activities
- Complete a service obligation after graduation.

Additional Information

To learn more about the BK:IL Program, visit [http://www.uncg.edu/hdf/graduates/BK_initial_license_graduate.html](http://www.uncg.edu/hdf/graduates/BK_initial_license_graduate.html)

Application Deadlines:

To be considered for the grant funding opportunity for Fall 2015, all application materials, including the complete application to the program ([http://grs.uncg.edu/apply-online/](http://grs.uncg.edu/apply-online/)), application to the grant, and personal statements must be received by April 1, 2015.

Applicants who wish to apply to the BK:IL Program only (i.e., not for grant funding) must submit their program application by May 15, 2015 in order to be considered for Fall 2015 admission.

Applications received after these dates will be reviewed on an ongoing basis until the program fills.

For further information about this grant funding opportunity contact Kimberly Terry, Project Coordinator, at kmtrogdo@uncg.edu. For further information about the program contact Dr. Margaret Gillis at mcgillis@uncg.edu.
Frequently Asked Questions

BK Initial Licensure Program

What are the program admission requirements?
Applicants must have a bachelor’s degree in early childhood or a related field and an undergraduate GPA of at least 3.0 for admission.

Can I work while completing the BK:IL Program?
Yes, many students work while completing the program. Synchronous class meetings are in the evenings from 5:00-6:50pm. Students are required to participate in field experiences and full-time student teaching in high-quality inclusive settings. In some instances, students may need to leave their work settings to complete a field experience or student teaching in an approved setting.

How long is the student teaching experience?
The length of the full-time student teaching experience will depend on a few factors. Students without a teaching license are required to complete 10 weeks of full-time student teaching. Students with a teaching license in an area other than BK are required to complete 8 weeks of full-time student teaching. Students who participate in the grant funding opportunity are required to complete a total of 15 weeks of full-time student teaching, divided between two placements (one for 10 weeks and one for 5 weeks). Full-time is defined as 40 hours per week.

How long does it take to complete the BK:IL Program?
The program can typically be completed in three or five semesters, depending on the number of courses taken each semester. Students applying from fields other than early childhood education may be required to take two pre-requisite courses during the program.

How do I apply for the BK:IL Program?
Complete the online application at http://grs.uncg.edu/apply-online/. Applications must include academic transcripts, a professional statement describing interest and rationale for obtaining BK licensure and career goals, and three letters of recommendation, including at least one academic reference. Individuals must complete the application to the program and be accepted to be eligible for grant funding.

Grant Funding Opportunity

How do I apply for the grant funding?
If you are interested in applying for this funding opportunity, please complete the grant application form at http://goo.gl/forms/maZNgIgwWh and submit a 2-3 page, double-spaced personal statement to Kimberly Terry, Project Coordinator, at kmtrogdo@uncg.edu. In the personal statement, highlight the following: (1) key experiences you have had working with young children and families, (2) goals you would achieve by participating in the grant project, (3) career goals, and (4) need for funding support.

What are the grant requirements after graduation?
Scholars receiving support through the grant are required to meet service obligations after graduation through eligible employment providing direct or indirect service to children with disabilities. Information regarding the service obligations and FAQs can be found here http://www.serviceobligations.ed.gov/ProgramReg2006.cfm and here https://serviceobligations.ed.gov/FAQ.cfm.

For information on Gainful Employment, please visit: