



boulder journey school



TEACHER
EDUCATION
PROGRAM



University of Colorado Denver
School of Education & Human Development

**Online Master's Degree Program - Innovative Early Childhood Education
(CU Denver and Boulder Journey School Partnership)
FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS**

Is University of Colorado Denver accredited?

Yes, University of Colorado Denver is accredited by the Higher Learning Commission.

What is the total cost for the program?

The tuition and fees for this 30-credit master's degree is \$9,156.80.

**This tuition rate is effective May 2020 for the plan of study that begins in August 2020. Fees and tuition are subject to change.*

If I am not a resident of Colorado, will I need to pay non-resident tuition rates?

No, the tuition and fees, totalling, \$9,156.80 is the cost for all graduate students.

Do I need to pay the full tuition amount upfront?

No, the tuition is broken down into five terms. You will be enrolling in 10 courses, 2 per term, for a total of 5 terms.

Tuition For Term 1: \$1,906.80

Tuition for Terms 2 - 5: \$1,812.50 each term

Please Note: If you have previously enrolled in A Colorado Interpretation of the Reggio Approach and/or Observation, Documentation and Assessment, the first term tuition and fees will be reduced to account for the completed course(s).

Can I take just one course at a time and start the program mid year?

The design of this program is for students to begin in Fall and to enroll in two courses concurrently for each of the 5 terms.

Please Note: The exception for this protocol is for students who previously enrolled in the 2 courses that are open to the public, A Colorado Interpretation of the Reggio Approach and Observation, Documentation and Assessment. Those who have already taken these two courses will participate in orientation in the Fall and then will continue with coursework in the Spring, as these are the two Fall courses.

When is the application deadline?

The application deadline for the August 2020 start date is July 1, 2020.

When is the start date?

The program starts the week of August 10, 2020.

Is this a cohort model?

Yes, all students enrolled in this program will be part of a cohort. There will be a virtual orientation using Zoom as a platform in August. Additionally, each course can also schedule Zoom meetings throughout the course.

Is there a maximum number of students accepted each year and is there a maximum number of students in each course?

All applicants who submit materials by July 1 will be considered for program acceptance. Typically, we enroll between 20 - 40 students in one online course. When course enrollment reaches 25 students or more, a graduate teaching assistant (TA) is added to support the instructor in teaching the course.

Will classes be available to access at each individual student's own time?

The online courses are a combination of self-paced work leading up to assignments with specific due dates, along with scheduled virtual sessions using Zoom. You, your classmates, and your instructors will select times for the virtual sessions together. This program is designed so that students can choose to work full-time while earning a master's degree in less than two years. It is also created with the intention of supporting educators who work in diverse contexts, including urban public schools and HeadStart programs.

What can I expect from the courses?

Study high quality, multi-media examples of classroom learning and teaching, engage in collaborative examination of documentation, develop your own interpretations, and experiment with new practices to innovate the field of Early Childhood Education. Throughout this interactive, online master's program, you will deeply study the philosophy, foundational ideas, and practices from the infant toddler centers and preschools of Reggio Emilia, Italy. While exploring the Reggio Emilia Approach, you will make extensive connections between your own context and the Reggio-inspired work at Boulder Journey School, a school for young children and teacher education developed in partnership with the School of Education and Human Development at the University of Colorado Denver. Additionally, courses are taught using a social constructivist approach to learning so that you are immersed in the same kind of learning experience you seek to offer children.

What are the program outcomes?

1. Explore the history, values, and core concepts of the Reggio Emilia Approach, and the interpretations of the Reggio Emilia Approach to early childhood education at Boulder Journey School in Boulder, Colorado.
2. Use documentation as a form of assessment of children and for self-assessment of your teaching practice, ultimately informing the decisions you make as a teacher in the classroom.
3. Organize learning experiences that offer the potential for peer learning and the potential for a differentiated curriculum based on cultural and linguistic backgrounds, as well as individual strengths and goals.
4. Develop strategies that offer appropriate support for promoting positive interactions in the classroom based on an understanding of social and emotional development.
5. Understand how to use a continuous cycle of observation, documentation, interpretation, and provocation to create contextually meaningful curriculum and long-term investigations.
6. Critically analyze literature on a topic of interest, create connections to your own research within your context, and write a literature review.
7. Understand and experience STEM teaching as active facilitation, explore the early childhood STEM research literature to create a "STEM mindset".

8. Develop an awareness of a wide spectrum of learning environments and learning materials and design provocative, stimulating learning environments on both a macro and micro scale that are grounded in theory and beliefs about learning.
9. Understand the roles of communication and the “hundred languages” in early learning of languages, literacy, and learning about the world, including a focus on cultural, linguistic diversity and dual language learning.
10. Develop advocacy skills for promoting a strong image of children and educators in community contexts.

What is the approach to online learning in this program?

CU Denver uses the learning management system Canvas for all of the courses. Each Instructor will have their own style of using the platform, however you can expect to be engaged throughout each course in various ways such as individual work on assignments, small and large group conversations, and ongoing collaboration with peers and instructors. Instructors have deeply engaged in the study of digital pedagogy that mirrors their pedagogy in face to face learning experiences. Other digital tools such as Google documents and slides, padlet, flip grid, and video technology will enhance student’s individual and shared learning.

Are international students eligible?

Yes! International students are encouraged to apply for this program and the tuition rate is the same. Please see specific application requirements below.

What are the application requirements?

Everyone applying to this online master’s degree program must either have a conferred Bachelor’s Degree or be in their final year of obtaining their Bachelor’s Degree. When applying, you will need to submit the following:

- Application and application fee of \$50 (Note: The application fee is currently waived using the code CUin2020.)
- Two Letters of Recommendation
- Resume
- Official transcripts from all colleges/universities attended, including confirmation of your conferred Bachelor’s Degree. Instructions for submission are included within the application. If your institutions allow, it is preferred for students to provide electronic transcripts. This will allow for faster processing of your application.
 - Send official transcripts to CU Denver at: graduateadmissions@ucdenver.edu.
 - If you are not able to order electronic transcripts, you can provide unofficial transcripts for admission into the program. You will eventually need to provide official transcripts or you will have a registration hold beginning your second semester of the program.
- Letter of Intent Written Statement - As an applicant to the program, you are required to include a letter of intent that describes your interest, your special strengths, and some goals that you hope to achieve through your work in the program. The letter of intent should be 2-3 typewritten pages. Please include the following:
 - Please address your letter, Dear (Program’s Name) Faculty.
 - Briefly introduce yourself. Show how your background and experience have prepared you for the program.
 - Outline some core values and beliefs - and how they will support your success in the program.
 - Tell about your learning goals- what is it you hope to learn from the program, and how you hope to use that new knowledge.

- Give an indication of your career plans and the contributions you hope to make after you complete the program.
- Faculty will evaluate the statement using the following criteria:
 - Your writing skills- fluency, grammar, mechanics, organization, and style
 - Your commitment to core values and to professional growth and development

Please Note, if you are an international student, please find details about application requirements below.

What is the admissions process?

The application review timeline occurs on a rolling weekly basis following submission of a complete application. If accepted, you will be notified in time to matriculate and enroll in courses in time for the August 2020 start.

Am I eligible for financial aid?

Yes. Those who are US residents are eligible for financial aid. If you are interested in financial aid, be sure to complete your FAFSA application (<https://fafsa.ed.gov/>) as soon as possible to ensure you are eligible to receive aid for Fall term. Use your Federal Student Aid PIN and the CU Denver school code 004508 when completing the FAFSA application. Learn more about Financial Aid at <http://www.ucdenver.edu/student-services/resources/CostsAndFinancing/FASO/Pages/FASO.aspx>.

Are there scholarships available?

While there are no current scholarships specific to this MA, please feel free to peruse the information regarding [general scholarships](#) and [Early Childhood Education scholarships](#). Please note there are specific eligibility requirements for each scholarship, which may include being an active CU Denver student. Students may also find various scholarships outside of CU Denver.

What if I would like to participate in the Study Group in Reggio Emilia, Italy?

Many people have dreamed of visiting the world-renowned schools and immersing themselves in the city of Reggio Emilia Italy. As a graduate student in the online Master's Degree program, you will have the opportunity to participate in the Student-Professor Study Group. You will be joined by fellow graduate students, professors, and CU Denver and Boulder Journey School Faculty members. This Study Group takes place in March each year, so you will have the option to attend the trip in your second term or your final term in the program. Once you are enrolled in the program, you will receive detailed information around adding this component.

What if I would like to visit Boulder Journey School?

You can come to Boulder Journey School while school is in session to observe the classrooms in action and/or spend an extended period of time immersed in the daily life of the classroom. Graduate students enrolled in this program will be able to add on an opportunity to observe and/or participate in extended time at Boulder Journey School. Once you are enrolled in the program, you will receive detailed information around adding this component.

Do I need to be working in a classroom while participating in the MA?

The courses are designed for those working in classrooms with children from infancy - age eight and also for those working in various roles outside of the classroom. Having access to classrooms or other children's learning environments is recommended. Course instructors will support individuals in every type of context, including those outside of the classroom. If you have questions about your particular question, please reach out to Jody Ogradnick jody.ogrodnick@boulderjourneyschool.com

Will I need to purchase textbooks?

Each course instructor will communicate independently about required readings. You will purchase texts for some course and some of these texts will be used across multiple courses. We work to keep the cost of purchase texts low.

Is there a final program assessment required in order to graduate?

The plan of study is organized so that each term builds off of previous terms. Thus the two courses in the final term, by nature of the plan of study, will be the culmination of your overall experience throughout the program. This means that there is not a required program assessment, such as a thesis paper or capstone, separate from the course requirements.

How much time will this take, what is the workload?

While these are graduate level courses that will require time devoted to working on assignments, engaging in zoom meetings, and other program related items, the program is designed to support those working full time.

How can I get more information?

CU Denver and Boulder Journey School will host group informational sessions hosted by faculty and program coordinators throughout the year (TBD). If you have questions in between these offerings, please contact jody.ogrodnick@boulderjourneyschool.com

How do I apply if I am an International Student?

- Application Fee: \$75
- You will submit two letters of recommendation, personal statement/essay, resume and official transcripts. See details for letters, essay, and resume in the 'application requirements' section above. See details regarding transcripts below.
- English Language Proficiency Requirements - There are requirements around ELP, please click [here](#) to learn more.
- Transcripts:
 - You will need to submit official transcript(s) and degree certificate(s) from all institutions/colleges attended.
 - CU Denver does not accept third party credential evaluations, as evaluations are done within the University. The following is required for international transcript evaluation:
 - Certified English Translation(s) (specific guidelines for this can be found on our website)
 - Unofficial transcript(s)/degree certificate(s) but official documents will be required during the first semester of study at CU Denver.
- For more information about currency conversion and payment process, please review the information on the [Bursar Office Website](#) This is generally a fairly simple process for students and is used regularly.
- Financial Aid
 - Typically International students are not eligible for financial aid. U.S. financial aid requires someone to be a citizen or Permanent Resident. However, every scholarship will have their own requirements, so it depends on what the requirements of the scholarship are. Some may require U.S. citizenship or PR depending on where the funding is coming from.
- Please Note, there may be additional paperwork needed.

- For more detailed information about document requirements, please visit the [IA Website](#):

Please Note:

- *If you are an international student, seeking enrollment in this online MA program, you are not eligible to apply for a visa to enter the US.*
- *If you are an international student, currently living in the United States, please reach out to Jody Ogrodnick, Jody.Ogrodnick@boulderjourneyschool.com who will connect you with the appropriate person.*